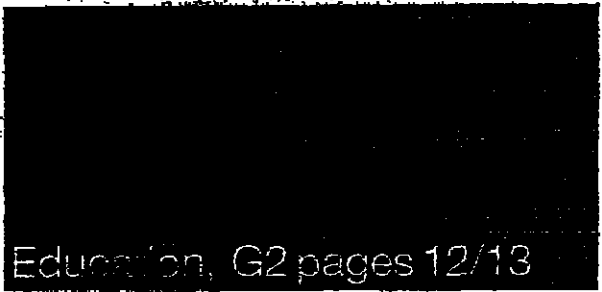


Tuesday
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Britain's newspaper
for Europe

The Guardian



'We are what we are. We are all different, the products both of our genes and our experiences'

Davies: bitter and defiant

Michael White
Political Editor

THE OUSTED Welsh Secretary Ron Davies last night couched an emotional appeal for a more tolerant atmosphere in public life with a bitter attack on irresponsible "media intrusion" into his private life since the Clapham Common affair triggered his resignation from Tony Blair's cabinet.

In a rare personal statement to a hushed Commons, the Caerphilly MP shed no fresh light on the encounter which led to his downfall.

Mr Davies told MPs he had failed to protect his personal safety and "became the victim of what was for me a frightening and shocking crime... The process of law will now take its course. For that reason I will make no further comment on that aspect of the matter."

But on the question of his own sexuality he was unambiguous: "We are what we are. We are all different, the products both of our genes and our experiences." Some MPs took that as a tacit admission of bisexuality.

Mr Davies's equally cryptic admission that "in my own childhood I learned a hard lesson at a very early age — you can't allow powerful people to bully the weak or to abuse their own power" also puzzled many of his colleagues.

Within minutes of his sitting down, it emerged that Mr Davies was in part referring to brutal treatment by his father. The MP and his brothers and sisters had previously agreed not to talk publicly about him.

Last night Mr Davies's former special adviser at the Welsh Office, Huw Roberts, referred to an interview recorded in January 1997 being transmitted last night on Channel 4's Welsh language station S4C. Mr Davies, in his first interview in Welsh, had revealed more than ever before, he said.

In the crucial exchange with reporter, Twi Griffiths, Mr Davies explained: "I'm very much a libertarian at heart and the inclusiveness that I argue is a reaction to intolerance... at a very personal level, I had a father who was very much an authoritarian figure, a very brutal figure."



Ron Davies delivering his personal statement to a packed House of Commons yesterday

"And there's no doubt at all, if you force me to do some self-analysis, I am a libertarian as reaction to the brutality of the authoritarian nature of that paternalistic society, a very traumatised childhood, and a very difficult family life."

MPs were divided by Mr Davies's statement to the Commons, some sympathising with his complaints about media hounding, others unimpressed by his lack of candour and appeal for victim status. Either way, Mr Davies is persuaded that he has received enough public support since the scandal broke — especially in Wales — to warrant him staying on as an

MP and prospective Welsh Assembly member. But he will not be its leader. Yesterday the Welsh Labour executive began moves to pick a new leader, probably Alun Michael, who was given Mr Davies's old job.

In his personal statement to MPs, granted by the Speaker but very rare in the Commons, Mr Davies admitted "failing to protect my personal safety and becoming the victim of what was for me a frightening and shocking crime". He apologised to the Commons and thanked his wife, Christine, and 12-year-old daughter, Angarad, for their love and support. He contrasted the flood of

letters and phone calls with the "stream of rubbish" in newspapers and on television. "Rumour and lies have been asserted as truth. The whole of my adult life has been pored over for something which could be twisted to suit the present prejudice. Ultimately this arbitrary abuse of power is not just an attack on me, but on our rights. The right to privacy belongs to all citizens."

He warned the hounding of people for "one mistake" may deter people from standing for public office, and denounced lives being "picked over and twisted out of all recognition" for public titillation. Such claims could rebound on Mr Davies if prosecutions in the case confirm unsavoury allegations against him.

Mr Davies last week admitted a "moment of madness" in which he agreed to go off "for a meal" with three strangers after an encounter on Clapham Common. But neither Mr Blair, nor close political allies, know exactly what happened last Monday night.

One man, Donald Fearon, has been charged in connection with the subsequent robbery which led to Mr Davies's resignation.

Sketch, page 2; Brutal father, page 4; Hugo Young, page 5; Leader comment, page 9



Davies agreed to meet blackmailer

Mike Davies

RON DAVIES agreed to meet a man who was attempting to blackmail him over sexual advances he made on Clapham Common, according to sources close to the incident. The rendezvous was arranged for noon last Tuesday — the day after Mr Davies's night-time walk which led to his resignation from the Cabinet.

The would-be blackmailer had threatened to go to newspapers and "expose him to the maximum" after Mr Davies had asked if he could arrange a man for sex, according to information which the police regard as reliable.

Mr Davies initially agreed to pay £1,000 at a meeting the next day on Clapham Common. When Mr Davies failed to turn up for the meeting, the would-be blackmailer rang the Welsh Office and discovered that the Secretary of State had resigned over the incident.

Revealing fresh details of the incident, local sources in Brixton claim that Mr Davies stopped his car by Clapham Common last Monday evening, wound down the window and gestured to a man to come across to him. Touching the man through the open window, Mr Davies asked him for sex. The man told Mr Davies he would not have sex with him, but could arrange something. The man got in the car and drove with Mr Davies to Somerleyton Road in Brixton.

According to sources, the man was looking for a gay man who lived in a block of flats there. He planned to introduce Mr Davies to the second man, and charge the MP commission for the introduction.

Mr Davies and the man entered a lift in a building off

this road, where they were joined by two other men known to the first man.

In the lift, Mr Davies began touching the first man again. The three men threatened Mr Davies at knifepoint. His cash and wallet were taken before Mr Davies was marched back to his car and driven to a bank, where he was told to use his credit card. Mr Davies, visibly frightened, told them he could not remember his PIN number and was left by the side of the road as the men drove off.

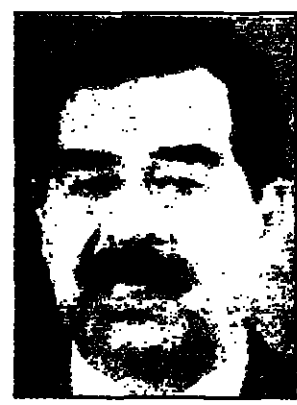
The assailants discovered Mr Davies's identity from going through his papers, according to this source. Later that evening an unknown person rang Mr Davies and told him he would go to the newspapers with the story unless he paid them money.

Mr Davies agreed to meet the caller to pay him cash but told him he could not get more than £1,000 at any one time. He was told to meet the blackmailer on Clapham Common the following day at noon — and to meet again at 2pm with a further £1,000. The blackmailer told him he would send someone else to collect the money. Mr Davies agreed to wear a distinctive maroon coat, the sources said.

When Mr Davies failed to show up at noon the following day the blackmailer rang his office. No money was paid.

Mr Davies last night declined to respond to any of the allegations in the Guardian's report. "Ron's not going to answer any questions about his sexuality either way," his former special adviser, Huw Roberts, who lost his job when Mr Davies did, told reporters in tense exchanges at Westminster after the former Welsh Secretary made his personal statement.

But the Davies camp said that the police had considered turn to page 2, column 3



Saddam: 'Lies to his aides'

Saddam has secret weapons arsenal, says defector

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

SADDAM Hussein's chemical and biological arsenal is hidden from his senior ministers, a top Iraqi defector has revealed as Baghdad insisted it would not back down in the latest row over United Nations weapons inspections.

Tareq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and main representative on the interna-

tional stage, believes Iraq has disarmed in line with UN resolutions, but he has not been told the truth, Abbas al-Janabi, the former private secretary to President Saddam's son Uday, told the Guardian.

"Even Tareq Aziz doesn't know where the weapons are," said Mr Janabi, described by diplomats as one of the best-informed Iraqis to defect to the West in recent years. "He thinks they are finished. He is important out-

side Iraq but he is nothing in his own country."

Yesterday Mr Aziz said Baghdad would not reverse its decision to halt co-operation with UN weapons inspectors despite threats of military action by the United States, Britain and Germany. Instead, Iraq's 250 MPs unanimously backed the order to end co-operation with the UN Special Commission (Unscom) until the Security Council reviewed the lifting of sanctions and sacked

the Unscom chairman, Richard Butler.

In London Tony Blair issued a stern warning to the Iraqis to back down: "We have absolutely no doubt at all that they must comply and that we are ready to take whatever means are necessary to ensure that they do," he told a news conference, held with the German chancellor, Gerhard Schröder.

Mr Blair, President Bill Clinton's staunchest international backer on this issue,

said Iraq could not be allowed to build up weapons of mass destruction in defiance of Security Council resolutions.

Britain was in no doubt that Iraq's announcement on Saturday was a violation of the agreement it made in February with the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan.

In Washington Mr Clinton met senior members of his national security team to weigh options in the latest showdown. He is expected to order military action if Iraq

refuses to comply, but that will not happen quickly.

"I think you can presume that the initial set of actions will be diplomatic and from there we'll see what happens," one US official said.

Russia, which has close ties with Iraq, said it was urging Baghdad to reconsider.

Iraq's move was in response to a council decision on Friday for a "comprehensive review" of UN Iraq policy that Baghdad had hoped would lead to a partial lifting

of the sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Unscom has to certify that Iraq has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction before sanctions can go.

Mr Janabi said Uday Hussein, his brother Qusay and two other men form a secret committee that supervises the 600-strong special brigade charged with concealing Iraq's banned weapons from the UN inspection teams.

Inside Story, G2 pages 2-9

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Sketch

On a whinge and without a prayer



Simon Hoggart

As someone said the other day: "That Rastafarian must have promised Ron he could take him to meet Elvis. Because if it wasn't sex or drugs, it must have been rock 'n' roll."

The Commons was packed for Ron Davies's personal statement. These can be thunderous parliamentary occasions. Sir Geoffrey Howe's words began the downfall of Margaret Thatcher. Norman Lamont's epitaph for the Major government — "they are in office but not in power" — had almost as potent an effect.

Most MPs would find confessing to their colleagues a greater agony than telling the police, worse than informing the Prime Minister, harder even than facing one's wife.

Yet Mr Davies appeared cool, calm and relaxed when he arrived in the Chamber. A few members shook his hand, someone gave him a glass of water, and he sat, smiling, waiting for his turn.

We soon learned why. This was not a confession so much as a protracted whinge. He admitted making "a severe error of judgment", but that's all he did admit.

Indeed, even that turned out to be less than met the eye. The only error of judgment he agreed to was "failing to protect my personal safety". ("I have a shortcoming, it is my reckless courage," he was saying.)

And he has offered no reason at all why the fact that he had been "the victim of a frightening and shocking crime" should have obliged him to resign from two jobs.

The incident itself having been covered in a fashion, the rest of the statement did little but irritate our pity. His week had been "unrelentingly agonising... a nightmare". It was, it turned out, all the fault of the media, "reporting as fact a stream of rubbish".

keyboards, all dressed in white — droops at their moose.

It's no accident that, as the lights winked in and out of UV and the two prime cuts of "fresh French flesh" — their description, not mine — darted between muzak-dispersing dashboards, one thought of power failure in the console room of the Tardis.

The blissed-out vibe of Moon Safari metamorphoses into something rockier live. Kelly Watch The Stars comes an excuse for an amphetamine-charged thrash — electric guitars, squealing theramin, air-punching — spliced with sound effects straight from the BBC Radio-phonics Workshop.

Their biggest-selling single, Sexy Boy, drowns in an electro-medley which sees his rude backing band the Moog Cookbook conjure up, among other sounds plundered from the past, the Beatles' Tomorrow Never Knows on their notoriously satirical synth.

Their bassist body pops, which you don't see often.

It's all harmless fun: it's no secret, Air can't see *La Haine* for *La Vie en Rose*. But, while their presumably faux-naïf big-headedness is part of their charm, they're no mere novelty act.

From the cheesy-listening curves of *Le Matin La* — so sweet it'll rot your teeth — to the smoky Portishead-plus-vocal numbers with American chanteuse Beth Hirsch, their music is beautiful.

It's what Burt Bacharach, Pink Floyd and Metal Mickey might produce if confined together in a shuttle to Mars. They may never have played to a larger crowd, but Air purvey their smoothie sci-fi prog-pop with a charm and panache that suggests the reputation of these undeniably sexy boys may inflate still further.

"This arbitrary abuse of power is not just an attack on me but on all our rights," he said, a line of attack that MPs usually find deeply appealing — as they did this time, cheering him at the end.

Who would want to run for public office, he asked, "in the knowledge that one mistake may result in the whole of their lives being picked over and twisted?" The message to his colleagues could be summarised: "Your turn next."

The statement took on a surreal tinge. "You can't allow powerful people to bully the weak," he said, as if, as a member of the Cabinet and future prime minister of Wales, he was a feeble victim of unjust oppression.

And yet there were darker hints, secrets which seemed to lie only half-concealed within his words. "We are what we are. We are all different, the products both of our genes and our experiences."

Was this his way of telling us that he was gay? His associates have denied that but that is what he meant, but that makes it even more puzzling a remark.

Then he went on: "Not for the first time in my life I've been badly beaten and hurt." Clearly he was hinting at something from his past, some dreadful formative experience which, years later, dragged him out in the wind and rain to Clapham Common.

A few hours before I heard another man who has lately had cause to regret being in the news, Peter Mandelson, Trade Secretary, addressed the CBI in Birmingham.

"So nice," he said slyly, "to see so many of my friends in the media, reporting my every word — including correspondents from the BBC, without mentioning me by name."

A little joke, I suppose, but even Mr Mandelson's little jokes tend to sound like arcane and elusive threats.

Mr Mandelson had decided to come out as an capitalist, demanding enterprise, profit and rewards. "We have attitudes to wealth creation which border on the apologetic," he told the ranks of silent businessmen, sitting in the City on the occasion of a mobile phone could have confirmed there was an audience there at all.

"The future is before us!" he confided. I had the feeling that his mind was elsewhere.

Review

Beautiful music in a load of hot Air

Brian Logan

Air

Touring

THOSE to whom their candy-coloured electro-confections seem irksomely insipid think of them as thin Air. The sell-out crowd of studiously beautiful Londoners — and Janet Street-Porter too — who congregated at the appropriately velvet Theatre Royal, London, last night, think of them as hot Air.

The Parisian pair whose debut album has become the unlikely must-buy of the year were out to prove the latter performing before their biggest audience yet.

Sure enough, their set was effortlessly entertaining, eclipsing the experience of their slightly lightweight CD in a whirl of stellar melodies, lovable Gallic quirkiness and *une grande tranche* of seventies-era *fromage*.

Air know, of course, that being French and making music is inherently funny. They're probably faultless English speakers but realise it's much more entertaining not to be. They address the crowd in accents so thick you can almost smell turning sheep: they speak through vocoders too, and in riddles, which only adds to the comedy.

"And now a new song about the cool life of the bees" is a typical link — like their close cousins Daft Punk, the pair have carefully cultivated an enigmatic eccentricity.

"They've sampled 'macer' so that a touch of the keyboard growls expresses gratitude, and at Theatre Royal, their fans ensured that there was plenty of call for doing so."

On-stage, the duo cut a predictably surreal dash: Jean-Benoît Dunckel, Nicolas Godin and band, manning the

Tories try to shed homophobic image □ Ban memo was blunder says 'outed' Trade Secretary

Mandelson accuses BBC

Even MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Conservative Party formally dropped its traditional homophobic stance yesterday as the row over the "outing" of the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, gathered momentum.

Mr Mandelson joined the controversy, accusing the BBC of "a blunder" when it last week issued a memo forbidding any reference to his sexuality. He said that had provided the Tories with an

opportunity to mount an attack. Conservative Party Office adopted a twin approach: parading itself as a new, open party that will welcome gays as candidates while at the same time exploiting the BBC memo.

A Conservative spokesman, denying there was any contradiction, insisted that it had long been the intention of its reforming deputy chairman, Archie Norman, to widen the party base by bringing in more women, more representatives from the ethnic communities, and homosexuals.

To underline the point, Mr

Norman distanced himself from outspoken remarks from a prominent member of the Tory old guard, Lord Tebbit, who called for a ban on homosexuals holding sensitive Cabinet posts, such as the Home Office, because of a risk they would operate as some kind of freemasonry.

Lord Tebbit, in a letter to the Daily Telegraph, said: "I do not think Mr Mandelson's present office as Trade and Industry Secretary should be debarré to homosexuals on that ground but the Home Office certainly should."

Mr Norman said he disagreed with Lord Tebbit as

did the party leader, William Hague. A spokesman for Mr Hague said: "We do not think that [homosexuality] should be a defining characteristic of whether people should be given government jobs."

Mr Mandelson's sexuality became an issue last week when the Times columnist, Matthew Parris named him on BBC's Newsnight as one of two gay members of the Cabinet. Mr Parris, a former MP, came out as gay after his term in Parliament.

Mr Mandelson disclosed his annoyance with the BBC yesterday when a source close to him said: "It was a BBC blun-

der and incompetence by them. BBC policy on the private lives of public figures is quite clear. In putting this memo out they have provided a platform for the Tories and others."

Although Mr Mandelson has not complained to the BBC, the source said: "The BBC has clear guidelines and there was no need to mention individuals in the memo. The BBC needs to be more professional."

The shadow culture secretary, Peter Ainsworth, wrote to the BBC Director General, Sir John Birt, calling on him to withdraw the ban. He said he did not care about Mr

Mandelson's sexuality but the issue of journalistic freedom. In the Commons, Eric Forth, Tory MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, accused the BBC of an "absolutely unjustified trammelling of the freedom" of journalists over the ban.

Mr Norman is to issue guidelines to constituency parties stressing that selection committees should choose candidates that mirror modern British society.

The Tories are also to drop the grilling of the spouses of potential candidates.

Hugo Young, page 8

Schröder hopeful on UK euro policy

Larry Elliott and David Gow

GERMANY'S new Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, last night seized on signs that the Government is warming to the idea of British membership of the single European currency when he expressed optimism that Labour would sign up for the euro in the near future.

With two of the Cabinet's heavyweights — Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson — ratcheting up their support for monetary union, Mr Schröder used his first big speech abroad to welcome the Chancellor's timetable for the abolition of the pound.

Government sources insisted there had been no shift in policy towards the euro, but the warmer language prompted an immediate claim from the Conservatives that the die had been cast.

The Trade Secretary Mr Mandelson told the CBI conference in Birmingham that it was "economic lunacy, for the sake of Eurosceptic ideology, to marginalise British business on the sidelines of what should be its home market, as official Conservative policy on the single currency threatens to do."

"We have made it clear that we will join the single currency when it is in Britain's economic interests to do so."

The Conservative leader William Hague said that by making it plain that it was a question of "when" Britain would join rather than "if", the Government had revealed its true intentions.

He said: "We have seen a significant shift in the Government's policy on the single currency. They have not only set themselves in favour of abolishing the pound but they have now set a clear timetable for doing so."

Mr Brown, also at the CBI conference, kept to the government line on the single currency when he said his outline national changeover plan, due in January, would set out the practical steps which would be needed "if the UK were to join the euro."

However, the CBI was left in no doubt that the Government had started to adopt a more friendly attitude towards monetary union as

the euro's launch on January 1 approaches. Many industrialists, including Ford chairman Sir Alex Trotman, urged the Government to set a firm date for entry.

Mr Brown said: "We will set out the stage-by-stage procedure that will be followed, we will spell out the practical implications of changing to the euro and we will give whatever new advice we can to companies on the way to take forward their preparations."

One of Mr Brown's protégés, the Swindon North MP Michael Wills, is to chair a new cross-party group of MPs to discuss preparations for the euro.

Mr Schröder told the CBI: "We hope from the depths of our heart that the UK will soon join. I explicitly welcome Gordon Brown's declaration at this conference about drawing up a schedule for the UK's entry into monetary union."

The German Chancellor, fresh from talks in Downing

Street with the Prime Minister, praised Tony Blair's "clever and astute policy towards Europe" and went out of his way to stress that Bonn and London were following similar policies.

In a bid to reassure Britain that there would be no attempt to interfere with the independence of the European Central Bank, Mr Schröder slapped down his own finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine, who is pressing for greater political control over Europe's interest rates.

John Redwood, the shadow trade and industry spokesman, said at the CBI: "The policymakers that brought us the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy are now offering us the common economic policy. Why should we believe they will be any better at economics than they have proved at agriculture and fishing?"

John Gray, page 8; CBI Conference, page 12

Davies agreed to meeting

continued from page 1 charging one person with blackmail because there had been a threat to "torch" the MP's car if he did not pay money. The sums involved were "significantly less" than the figures given to the Guardian.

Nor is it disputed that Mr Davies did not have enough money on his person to satisfy his attackers and may even have forgotten his PIN number when taken to a cash-point under duress.

But the MP's closer associates admit they do not yet know the full story. "It's very difficult," said one.

The sequence of events disclosed to the Guardian is at variance with the narrative Mr Davies originally gave to the police and the Prime Minister. He originally told police that he had been "carjacked"

as he drove along Brixton Hill. Subsequently he told them that three people, including a woman, had been involved.

Last night police sources indicated that there were differences between the first statement Mr Davies gave on Monday night, straight after the incident, and his fuller description to police on Tuesday.

In an interview on Friday night, Mr Davies told BT: "You can't expect to have instant recall and a properly constructed ordered sequence of events when you are in a state of shock... I gave a further statement to the police in which I was able to give them more evidence, which I hope is helpful to them."

In the immediate aftermath of Mr Davies's resignation, a Downing Street spokesman

repeated Mr Davies's denial that any "sexual encounter" had taken place. Later — on Thursday — the spokesman told reporters: "You think there are elements to the story that were not here fully explained. Maybe we feel a bit like that as well."

In a later account during a television interview last Friday Mr Davies insisted that he had had a "casual conversation with a strange man... about walking on the Common and it being a nice night. That sort of thing."

In another television interview with Glyn Mathias, the political editor of BBC Wales, he said: "There have been two suggestions, that either drugs were involved or sex was involved... let me tell you that neither of those allegations has the slightest shred of truth in them."

Sharp shock for BBC as Taggart beats Thackeray

Janine Gibson Media Correspondent

THE BBC's latest costume epic — a £4.5 million adaptation of *Vanity Fair* — was whipped in the Sunday night ratings by Taggart, a 15-year-old ITV series whose eponymous hero died four years ago.

Unofficial figures show that BBC1's autumn flagship drama reached 6.8 million viewers (28 per cent of the audience) while a feature-length episode of Taggart was watched by 9.9 million (46 per cent).

An ITV source said: "I think the BBC is overestimating the public's desire for costume drama. Just because it's a classic novel doesn't mean it's going to be a classic TV series."

ITV itself is not immune from costly classic flops. Its most recent venture into the genre, *Hornblower*, was British television's most expensive drama ever.

The £12 million seagoing series was aired last month at the same time as BBC1's cheap and cheerful hit, *Changing Rooms*, and achieved the same audience of 6.2 million viewers.

A BBC spokesman insisted yesterday that *Vanity Fair* — and its heroine, Becky Sharp — had a perfectly respectable start. "It's performed very well," he said. "Thackeray would be dancing around." The

spokesman refused to comment on the BBC's expectations for the series. He emphasised *Vanity Fair*'s good reviews, adding: "No one makes a judgment on the first episode."

A Taggart source was thrilled by the unexpected success of the show, which began in 1988. "It shows there's plenty of life in Taggart, even though the star [Mark McManus] died four years ago."

A six-part adaptation of *Vanity Fair* was written for television by Andrew Davies, whose version of *Pride and Prejudice* — credited for inspiring much of the rash of costume dramas over the last few years — averaged around 10 million viewers. But audiences for period dramas have declined since.

Last year's BBC1 adaptation, Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*, reached 8.8 million viewers including a repeat, and earlier this year a new BBC1 costume series, *Berkeley Square*, was not recommissioned after it pulled in just 6.2 million viewers. The low point was *Rhodes* in 1996. The BBC1 series reached just 4.8 million viewers.

However, the BBC is planning a spate of Dickens adaptations, including *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations*, and ITV has commissioned Alan Bleasdale to adapt *Oliver Twist*.

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And now here's the outlook: misery for millions

World's biggest super-computer predicts runaway greenhouse effect that will bring drought, deserts and disease in its wake.
Paul Brown reports

LARGE swaths of the planet will be plunged into misery by climate change in the next 50 years, with many millions ravaged by hunger, water shortages and flooding, according to evidence published yesterday.

Findings from Britain's Hadley Centre for Climate Change presented to 170 countries in Buenos Aires show that parts of the Amazon rain forest will turn into desert by 2050, threatening the world with an unstoppable greenhouse effect.

The startling findings are the result of billions of calculations made by the world's biggest super-computer, installed at the Hadley Centre in Berkshire. The latest figures show the earth is heating up fast, with 1998 already the hottest year since reliable records began 140 years ago.

Among the findings are:
□ Land temperatures will go up 6C by the end of the next century.

□ The number of people on the coast subject to flooding each year will rise from 5 million now to 100 million by 2050 and 200 million by 2080.

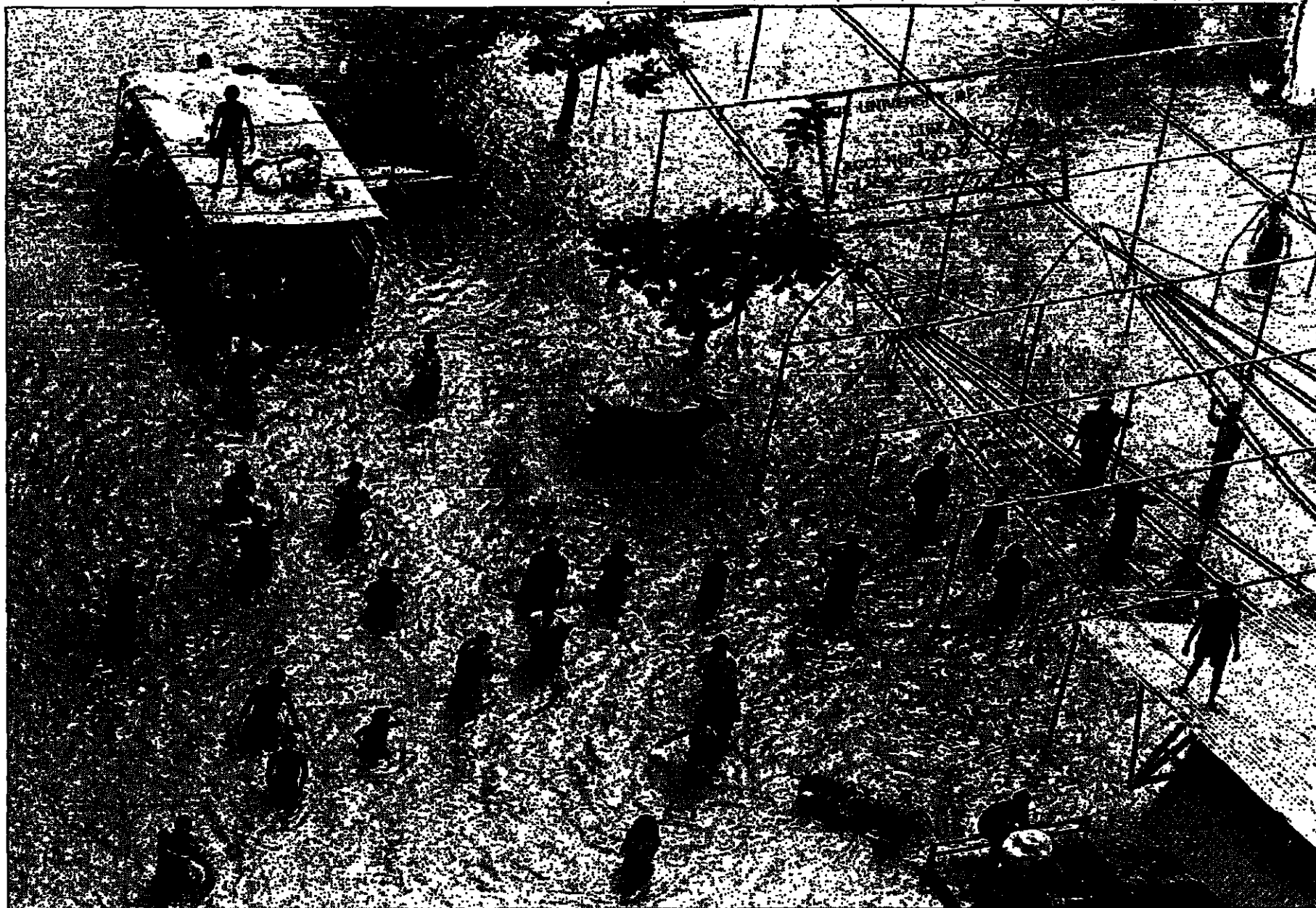
□ Another 30 million people will be hungry in 50 years because it will be too dry to grow crops in large parts of Africa.

□ An extra 170 million people will live in countries with extreme water shortages.

□ Malaria, one of the world's most dread diseases, will threaten much larger areas of the world — including Europe — by 2050.

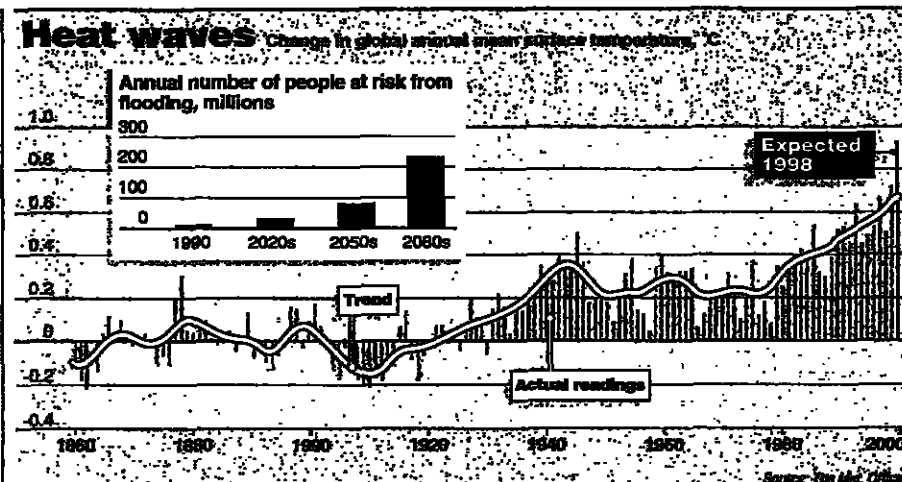
The new predictions include far better representations of ocean currents, which drive the world's climate. The Gulf Stream, which is important for warming Britain in the winter, will be 30 per cent less strong in the future but Europe will still warm considerably.

Western Europe, including Scotland, will gain the ability to grow extra grain, but the storms of the past few weeks



People in Urraco, Honduras, wait to be rescued after their village was inundated by flood waters caused by the tropical depression Mitch yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JUAN CARLOS ULATE



will be typical of the more extreme weather conditions the country can expect.
The impact on food supply will be particularly bad for Africa and the United States. The whole of central and

southern Africa will have reduced ability to grow staple crops, but in world political terms the adverse effects on the US prairies is likely to prove very important.
Droughts and extra heat

leading to evaporation means that wheat and maize yields will drop up to 10 per cent. Since the vast surplus of the US wheat belt is important to the country's wealth and its hold on world food supplies,

this prediction will be bad news for the White House.

The US stands accused of holding up talks designed to reduce the world's output of carbon dioxide, so it is ironic that on the first day of the two-week meeting in Argentina the latest models show that the US will be among the countries most severely affected.

Canada, on the other hand, will see wheat production increase by 24 per cent. The Canadian forests will extend northwards into what is now tundra.

Perhaps the most startling finding is the prospect of a runaway greenhouse effect after 2050. It has been thought that the speed of global warming would be moderated by the extra growth in plants and trees made possible because of more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This carbon dioxide fertiliser effect stimulates plants to grow faster.

The latest information shows that this benefit will

be lost in 2050 because of lack of rainfall in key areas. Worst affected will be northern Brazil, where the Amazon rain forest will turn into desert, and the eastern United States. Parts of southern Europe will become virtual deserts at the same time.

Many tropical grasslands will also be transformed into deserts, leading to widespread extinction of wildlife.

The rise in global sea level will be 21cm (8.2in) by 2050. The coasts of the southern Mediterranean, Egypt, west and east Africa, south and south-east Asia are most vulnerable. The islands of the Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans, some only a few feet above sea level, are at risk of being overwhelmed during storms.

Increased warmth leads to a dramatic rise in the number of malaria cases where the disease is already endemic. It is already spreading north — Italy had an outbreak last year — and is expected to

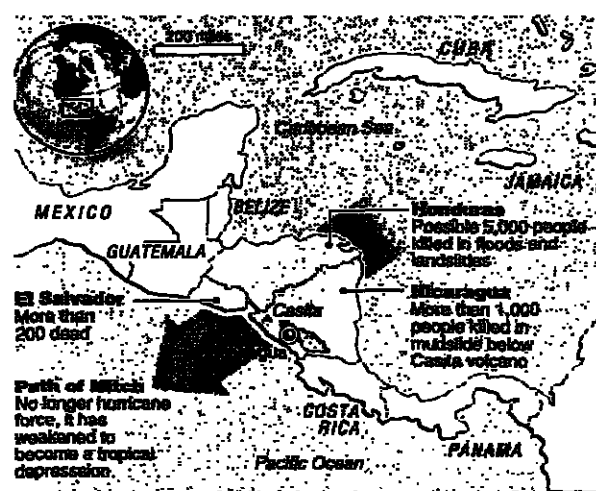
reach the Baltic by 2050. Although parts of Britain are already warm enough for the mosquitoes that carry the lesser Vivax malaria, no infection has so far reached these shores. The more dangerous *P. falciparum* form needs warmer temperatures but conditions will be right for it within 50 years over large parts of Europe.

The problem for doctors is that in 60 per cent of the world where malaria is currently unknown populations have little or no immunity to the disease and an epidemic could cause high death rates in adults and children.

Michael Meacher, the environment minister who is going to Argentina, said: "These are sobering findings. Millions of people will have life made miserable by climate change, with increased risk of hunger, water shortages and extreme events like flooding. Combating climate change is the greatest challenge of human history."



A mudslide victim in Posoltega, Nicaragua OSWALDO RIVAS



Thousands die in Central America as Mitch leaves havoc in its wake

Phil Gunson
Latin America correspondent

THE death toll from the worst storm to hit Central America this century seemed likely to exceed 7,000 yesterday, as desperately overstretched emergency services sought to bring order to the chaos.

The director of the Honduran national emergency committee (Copeco), Dimas Alonzo, said floods and landslides caused by tropical storm Mitch may have cost as many as 5,000 lives in Honduras alone. But he admitted the true total may never be known.

Rescue workers continued to pull bodies from the black volcanic mud at the scene of one of the worst disasters in Nicaragua's history. According to the Red Cross, more than 600 bodies have been recovered from the slopes of the Casita volcano near Chinandega and some 1,900 people remain unaccounted for.

Swollen by torrential rains caused by Mitch, the crater lake at the volcano's summit overflowed, witnesses say, causing an immense mudslide which wiped out four communities.

"The mud was as high as the treetops," a survivor, Rosa Caballero, said, "and it tore down the trees and the houses. The place is a desert now. There's nothing to be seen."

The mud, in places up to 20ft thick, covers an area of about 30 square miles. "It is a giant cemetery," Nicaragua's vice-president, Enrique Bolaños, said. "The inhabitants were buried; there were very few survivors."

The death toll continues to rise across the region, along with the so far incalculable economic losses to countries that can ill afford them. Honduras and Nicaragua, the two countries worst affected, are the poorest in the Americas after Haiti.

Twelve people died and

"The mud was as high as the treetops and it tore down the trees and the houses. The place is a desert now. There is nothing to be seen"

six were injured in Guatemala when a light aircraft carrying evangelical missionary doctors crashed near Quetzaltenango, apparently because of the bad weather.

In Honduras the dead included the mayor of the stricken capital, Tegucigalpa, whose helicopter crashed on to a main avenue as he was assessing the damage.

The swollen Rio Choluteca, which runs through Tegucigalpa, has turned the city centre into a vast lake, while the hillsides are

strewn with the wreckage of shanty homes. In all, 800,000 of the country's 5 million inhabitants are reported homeless.

A dam across the Rio Choluteca, caused by a landslide, is now threatening to burst and add to the devastation in the city, where looting is rife.

More than 200 people have been arrested, and many businesses are now protected by guards armed with shotguns and sub-machine-guns.

The Nicaraguan president, Arnoldo Alemán, who has

mental organisations, as well as fear of handing partial control to an army he distrusts. An emergency would also allow farmers to avoid credit repayments.

Along with other governments in the region, however, Nicaragua is now requesting aid from abroad, including emergency food rations.

Vice-President Bolaños said: "We have enough food in the country, but it is in areas where the roads have been washed out. If we had emergency food aid to tide us over until the roads can be repaired, that would be of great assistance."

Up to 50 bridges on main highways, along with many minor bridges, have been washed out by the storms. These include all those on main roads in and out of the Nicaraguan capital Managua, residents say.

One foreign resident of Managua said: "Hundreds of small villages have been cut off entirely, and there is not much food left in those places. In Managua there is enough to buy, but prices have begun to shoot up."

With hundreds of bodies rotting in the open air, and water supplies and other utilities disrupted, another fear is of epidemics, including malaria and cholera.

Hurricane Mitch — now a tropical depression — was meanwhile reported to be moving slowly into southern Mexico, causing heavy rainfall over Chiapas.

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Brutal father became demon to son

Will Woodward on Davies's suffering during 'very traumatised childhood'

RON DAVIES shed light on one of his personal demons last night when it emerged he had suffered at the hands of his "very brutal" father.

The former Welsh Secretary made a thinly veiled reference during his emotional Commons statement to his treatment by Ronald Davies.

Earlier he had authorised the disclosure of an interview he gave in January last year in which he described his father as "very much an authoritarian figure, a very brutal figure".

Mr Davies had been talking to Dewi Griffiths as a background briefing for a profile for the Welsh language television station S4C. The interview was off-the-record and Mr Davies then asked the material not to be used.

But Mr Griffiths said that he had spoken to a "tense" Mr Davies while he travelled to the Commons yesterday. The MP had accepted the details of the interview could be made public on S4C's Y Byd Ar Bedwar (The World On Four) programme last night.

"I'm very much a libertarian at heart and the inclusiveness that I argue is a reaction to intolerance," Mr Davies told him. "At a very personal level, I had a father who was very much an authoritarian figure, a very brutal figure."

"And there's no doubt at all, if you force me to do some self-analysis, I am a libertarian as a reaction to the brutality of the authoritarian nature of that paternalistic society — a very traumatised childhood, and a very difficult family life — very, very difficult."

Ronald Davies, a fitter, died more than 20 years ago. He was made redundant from jobs in the railway, steel and chemical industries and was an active trade unionist.

But his son Ron once said it was not until he went to Portsmouth polytechnic that he became "politically conscious" and joined Labour.

His mother Beryl Richards, also now dead, was a primary school teacher. Ron lists only his father in Who's Who.

In his statement to MPs, Mr Davies said: "In my own childhood, I learned a hard lesson at a very early age — you can't allow powerful people to bully the weak or to abuse their own power."

"Not for the first time in my life, I have been badly beaten and hurt. I believe my defences are strong enough to see me through this very trying time. From adversity can come strength. That will be so in my present circumstances."

Mr Davies also told the Commons: "We are what we are. We are all different, the products both of our genes and our experiences. Members of Parliament are no different from the society we represent."

He insisted he would not be bowed by the avalanche of media interest in his private life. "Rumour and lies have been asserted as truth. The whole of my adult life has been pored over for something which could be twisted to suit the present prejudice."

"Ultimately this arbitrary abuse of power is not just an attack on me, but on our rights. The right to privacy belongs to all citizens."

His former special adviser, Huw Roberts, insisted last night that did not amount to an admission he was gay.

Mr Griffiths said last night that Mr Davies' brother John had told him how the future Welsh Secretary had learned to stand up to his father "when he realised the consequences weren't fatal".

Mr Griffiths said he had wanted to trace the roots of Mr Davies' personal and political philosophy. He thought Mr Davies would give him more general political background but instead he had "come out with this stuff that I didn't expect. I knew even before the events of last week this was very powerful stuff and I did try to get the story out in other ways."

When the programme was first broadcast, John Davies, a lecturer in history and Welsh affairs at a college in Harlech, mid-Wales, had referred in passing to their authoritarian father.



Don Touhig, the MP for Islwyn, is expected to report to Labour's Welsh executive next week on how the party should find a leadership contender to replace Ron Davies

Labour looks to ease Michael into Wales

Headquarters wants to avoid a damaging contest to replace its assembly leadership candidate

Geoffrey Gibbs and Ewen MacAskill

THE Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, is almost certain to stand for the leadership of the Welsh Assembly after the Labour Party's Welsh executive yesterday opted to reopen the list of candidates.

Pressure will be put on Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West and one of the favourites for the job, to stand down in return for a promise of a job in the Welsh cabinet.

Mr Morgan came a good second to the former Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, in the leadership contest in September, failing to beat him in the grassroots section by only two percentage points. Mr

Labour is trying to stitch together a deal that would avoid a divisive leadership contest.

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Labour is trying to stitch together a deal that would avoid a divisive leadership contest.

Morgan was looking for a magnanimous gesture from Mr Davies after the contest, such as an offer of a Welsh cabinet job, but Mr Davies, embittered by the contest, declined.

The executive of the Wales Labour Party met in emergency session yesterday to decide how to deal with the vacuum left by Mr Davies's resignation.

At a two-hour meeting at party headquarters in Cardiff, members voted by two to one to reopen the party's panel of approved candidates for next May's elections to the National Assembly.

Mr Michael had not been on the original list because until last week he had seen his future as being at Westminster, where he was a Home

Office minister, rather than in Cardiff.

New contenders are being given two weeks to submit their applications.

The meeting agreed to reconvene the task force that drew up the rules under which Mr Davies was elected in September as the party's candidate for First Secretary of the assembly.

The task force, headed by Don Touhig, MP for Islwyn, has been asked to consider four options for plugging the gap left by Mr Davies's resignation and to report back as soon as possible. It is expected to make an interim report as early as next Monday when the executive next meets.

Mr Touhig acknowledged that the party was in un-

charted waters. But he added: "It is for the Wales Labour Party to resolve this matter, and at the end of the day the solution will be made in Wales, not by anyone else."

The four options being considered by the task force include a one-member-one-vote ballot of the party's 25,000 members in Wales, and an election by the electoral college of local parties, affiliated organisations and MPs used in September.

The task force will also look at the possibility of the leader being elected by members of the WLP executive or by Labour members of the assembly following next year's elections.

Mr Morgan is popular at grassroots level, but the Government is wary of him, see-

ing him as a dangerous option, an "unfocused" maverick.

Mr Michael would prefer to avoid a contest because there is a risk of defeat.

Other contenders mentioned include the MEP Wayne David, but he is being discounted at Westminster as not well-enough known.

One of Mr Morgan's backers, the Wrexham MP, John Marek, warned Mr Michael to keep out of the contest and not to allow himself to be "parachuted" in by the national party leadership. He said such a move would outrage members, risked splitting the Welsh party and could undermine the credibility of the assembly.

Letters, page 9

'Not for the first time, I have been badly beaten and hurt'

The full text of the personal statement by Ron Davies, former Welsh Secretary, to the Commons:

"MADAM Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me this opportunity to make a personal statement. Last Monday evening I made a severe error of judgment, failing to protect my

personal safety, and became the victim of what was for me a frightening and shocking crime.

I reported the matter to the police, and the process of law will now take its course. For that reason I will make no further comment on that aspect of the matter.

I wish to offer my heartfelt apologies to the House for any embarrassment I may have caused.

On Tuesday morning I explained to the Prime Minister what had occurred, apologised for it and offered him my resignation, which he accepted.

I want to place on record my thanks for his personal support and solicitude over the last few days, which has been a great comfort.

The events of the last week have been unmitigatedly agonising. I could not have got through them without the love and sup-

port of the two people most dear to me, my wife Chris and my daughter Angghar.

Without the constant support of a few dear friends, I cannot imagine how I could have got through this nightmare, and I offer them my heartfelt thanks.

I also want to thank many other close friends for their endless patience in the face of a constant barrage of media pressure.

Finally, I am grateful for the messages of support from former ministerial colleagues. Members in both Houses — from all sides — as well as the public at large.

The shock of the events of last Monday and the sadness of my resignation have been added to by media intrusion into my private life, reporting as fact a stream of rubbish.

Rumour and lies have been asserted as truth.

The whole of my adult life has been pored over for something which could be twisted to suit the present prejudice, ultimately this arbitrary abuse of power is not just an attack on me, but on our rights.

The right to privacy belongs to all citizens: the victims of crime, even if they are in public life, cannot be excluded from that.

We all have rights. We also all have responsibilities, and this applies to the media as well.

The media has the right to freedom but it must carry the responsibility to exercise that right judiciously.

In my own childhood I learned a hard lesson at a very early age — you can't allow powerful people to bully the weak or to abuse their own power.

How willing will the next victim of a crime be to

report it? How eager will people be to stand for public office in the knowledge that one mistake may result in the whole of their lives being picked over and twisted out of all recognition?

How could it improve democracy if our lives, our influences and relationships were laid out for public titillation?

We are what we are. We are all different, the products both of our genes and our experiences. Members of Parliament are no different from the society we represent.

Since becoming the Labour Party's spokesman for Wales in 1992, the creation of a new democracy for Wales has been a personal commitment and a political responsibility for me.

I know the process I started will go on, creating a more tolerant, more open

and mature way of conducting politics.

My experience over the last week could not have provided a more vivid demonstration of the need for such a tolerant society.

The support I have received from colleagues, ordinary citizens and indeed the Welsh media reassures me that this vision is widely shared.

Not for the first time in my life, I have been badly beaten and hurt. I believe my defences are strong enough to see me through this very trying time. From adversity can come strength. That will be so in my present circumstances.

I worked hard to change the face of politics and government in Wales. I am now more determined than ever to see those changes through.

I am very grateful, Madam Speaker, for the attention of the House."



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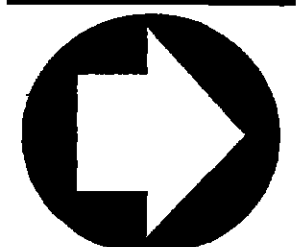
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He sold all his stock — bar one share — before he took the job and doesn't even draw a salary beyond a nominal \$1 a year (so his family can be on the health plan). His motivation reaches corners of the psyche that mere money can't reach. How Steve Jobs saved Apple

G2 front

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Britain 'could have done more to balk massacre of Jews'

Richard Norton-Taylor

THREE would have been as many Nazi collaborators and quislings here as in occupied Europe if Britain had been invaded in the second world war, according to a study on the Holocaust published today.

David Cesarani, a widely respected historian, also says Britain could have helped to save thousands of Jews by bombing railway lines from Hungary to the Auschwitz concentration camp and dropping supplies to the "death marches" in 1944. Yesterday, he described the failure to help the Jews as a "stain on the allies' war record".

He bases his argument on the claim that in the Channel Islands — the only part of Britain occupied — "co-operation and fraternisation with the Germans was the rule. There were almost no protests against the application of Nazi race laws."

He recognises that it would have been difficult for Jersey and Guernsey to resist but notes that a post-war government inquiry which detected widespread, unforced, collaboration among the islanders was suppressed for 40 years because it disturbed the image of the British people heroically resisting the Germans to the last breath.

"What happened in the Channel Islands can be seen as an indicator as to how the British would have responded

in the event of a successful German invasion," he says.

"Sadly, the evidence suggests that there would have been as many collaborators and quislings as in occupied Europe. The Jews would have faced the usual forms of persecution and would have received little help."

Documents released three years ago at the Public Record Office showed that Winston Churchill learned about the scale of massacres of Jews as early as summer 1941 from decoded messages from SS and German police units in Russia.

But there was little Britain could do then and a public acknowledgment might have alerted the Germans to the fact that Britain was breaking their codes, Mr Cesarani concludes in his study, *Britain & the Holocaust*.

Independent confirmation of the plan to annihilate the Jews came in 1942 from Gerhard Riegner, a Jewish official in Geneva, and Jan Karski, a courier for the Polish underground.

But in London Jewish leaders' lobbying for action was met with resistance from civil servants. They "viewed the protests as Zionist attempts to win sympathy for increased immigration into Palestine", Mr Cesarani says.

In mid-1944 when the Germans occupied Hungary and the Allies were on their way to winning the war, the government resisted any attempt to prevent Jews being deported to Auschwitz though

the deportations were known about in London virtually as they were taking place.

Mr Cesarani, professor of 20th century European Jewish History and Culture at Southampton University, said yesterday 437,000 Jews "were rounded up and deported to Auschwitz where 75 per cent were murdered. It took place under their noses when Germany was losing the war."

Proposals to give food to the Germans in return for saving the lives of Jews — including those being marched from Auschwitz to inner Germany in 1944 — were rejected partly on the grounds that the Soviet Union might suspect London of exploring a deal with Hitler.

Jewish groups in Britain were slow to protest publicly against the massacres, concentrating on a vain attempt to press for increased immigration into Palestine. "During 1939/40 while it was still possible for Jews to escape from the Nazis, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia were asked to stop the transit of Jews heading for ports from which to embark for Palestine," Mr Cesarani writes.

The study was published by the Holocaust Educational Trust, which described it yesterday as being designed to "fill in a black hole" and a useful tool for students.

Britain & the Holocaust, by David Cesarani, available from the Holocaust Educational Trust, BCM Box 7892, London WC1N 3XX

Snowdon saved



THE actor Sir Anthony Hopkins announced yesterday that Snowdon had been bought for the nation, writes David Ward.

An appeal by the National Trust to buy 4,000 acres on the mountain has reached its £4.16 million target with 10 days to spare. In August

the owner, Richard Williams, launched the appeal with a £1 million donation. Yesterday he said Snowdon could now be "saved in perpetuity for the nation".

Murder of feuding bikers had ritual quality, court told

Stuart Millar

A FEUD between two gangs of bikers erupted in "calculated and clinical" violence which left two men dead and a third seriously injured, a court heard yesterday.

David Armstrong, 33, and Malcolm St Clair, 35 — both members of the Outcasts motorcycle gang — died after being set upon outside a 1960s rock and roll party by Hell's Angels armed with knives, metal bars, hammers, an axe, a baseball bat and a cash.

A third Outcast member survived but after giving a blood sample refused to co-operate with police.

Orlando Pownall, prosecuting, said the attacks were so well planned that Hell's Angels equipped with headset microphones were seen on the dance floor at the Rockers Reunion event at the EAC, south-west London. "Those Hell's Angels were not there to enjoy the music but rather to act as spotters observing

the presence of Outcasts," Mr Pownall said.

Witnesses said the attacks had appeared "ritualistic", taking place in almost total silence. Afterwards, the attackers had appeared calm, relaxed and pleased, Mr Pownall said.

Jason Wilkinson, whose house overlooked the attack, said: "The total silence was the surprising thing. I had the feeling it was like a professional job or a punishment beating."

One of the Hell's Angels who attacked Mr St Clair was heard to say: "I got the bastard."

About 1,700 people attended the concert on January 31, Mr Pownall told the jury. Traditionally regarded as an Outcasts event, it had taken place during a growing battle for supremacy between the gangs. Hell's Angels, the prosecution said, were determined to remain the premier biker organisation in the country.

Mr Armstrong, from Walthamstow, east London — known as Flipper because he had lost his right leg in a mo-

torbike accident — was knocked off his bike as he arrived at the venue by a group of Hell's Angels.

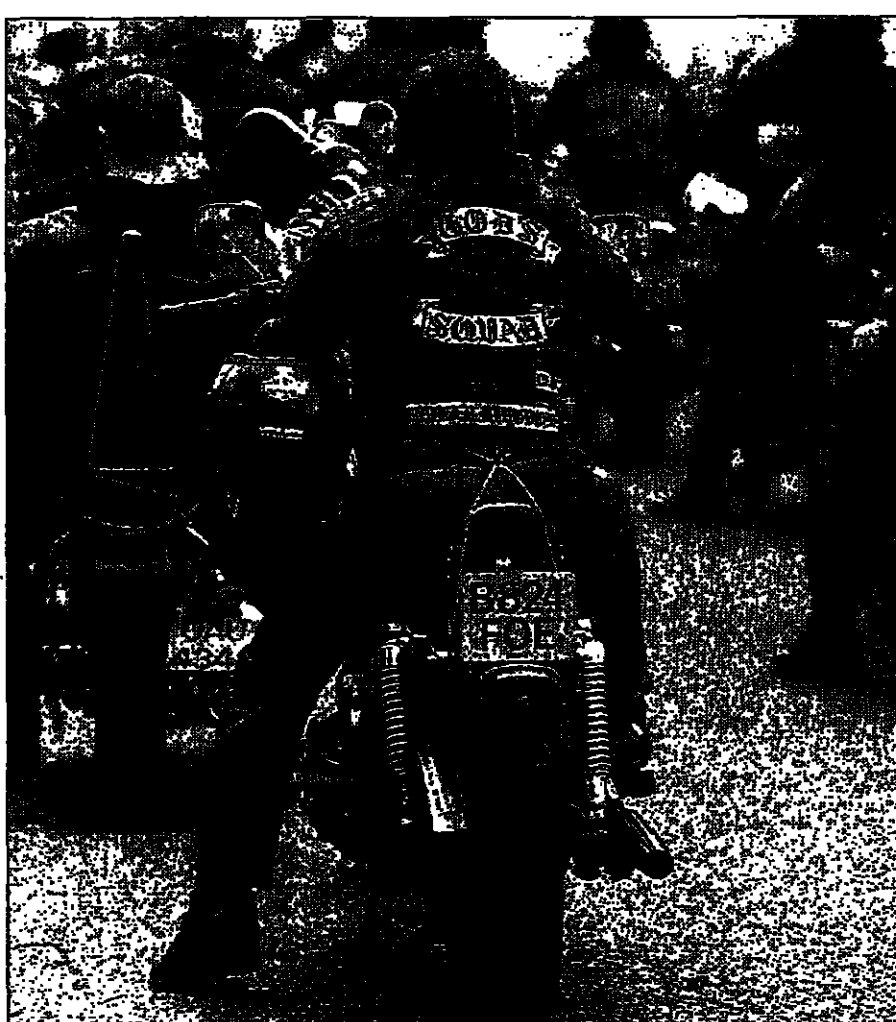
He suffered bruises to his face and four stab wounds to his abdomen and left leg. His lungs were penetrated and he suffered severe internal bleeding. He died in hospital.

Mr St Clair, originally from New Zealand, was attacked probably after he had gone to help his friend, the court was told. He escaped the initial assault, but was caught outside a chip shop by two Hell's Angels.

Ronald Wait, aged 44, was seen brandishing an axe before a second Hell's Angel stabbed Mr St Clair with a knife, the court heard. Mr St Clair was stabbed eight times in the chest abdomen, back and right hand. Three blows penetrated his left lung and he died later that night.

Wait denies murder and conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm. Although he may not have struck the victim with his axe, the prosecution said he was part of a "joint enterprise".

The case continues.



Bikers follow the funeral cortege of David 'Flipper' Armstrong

PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

Reputation at stake in claim against airline

David Palfister

A FORMER Metropolitan police detective yesterday denied that he was making a fraudulent personal injury claim after allegedly swallowing glass in a drink on a British Airways flight to New York.

John Gorman, aged 52, was giving evidence at the start of a trial at the central London county court for damages caused by the incident five years ago.

His solicitor-advocate, David Price, told the court that Mr Gorman's reputation was as much at stake as in a libel action.

The case had taken so long to come to court, he said, because the action was at first struck out by the High Court when Mr Gorman, who lives in Tenerife, was unable to attend because of illness. It was later reinstated by the Lord Chief Justice on appeal.

During yesterday's hearing Mr Gorman disclosed that he had two further actions pending against BA, for harassment and libel.

One element of the harassment case would be that crucial documents had been stolen from his car while it was parked in the secure staff car park at BA headquarters at Heathrow.

Mr Price said BA had strict liability under the Warsaw Convention if it was proven that the injury took place on the flight.

In cross-examination by Colin Mackay QC, for BA, Mr Gorman said that after taking

a drink from the club class tumbler he had felt discomfort in his throat, which died slightly for about 24 hours. He retched on the plane and at his hotel.

In New York, he went to a hospital emergency unit and saw the hotel doctor before consulting an ear, nose and throat specialist on his return to London a few days later. The specialist found inflammation of the oesophagus consistent with swallowing glass.

Mr Gorman also claimed that he recovered two tiny pieces of glass which had passed through his system. One of them was examined by BA and found not to match a club class tumbler. Asked why he did not send the second piece for examination, Mr Gorman replied: "Simple. I did not trust them."

Mr Mackay put it to him: "Having seen a chip on the edge of the glass, you decided to make a bogus claim about it?" Mr Gorman replied: "No, sir."

British Airways accepts that the glass had a small chip in it but that Mr Gorman suffered no injury.

A former member of the anti-terrorist squad, Mr Gorman was investigated after the service after being injured in the rescue operation at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, bombed by the IRA in 1984.

He admitted having made a number of claims against airlines, including two earlier ones against BA. But he said he was a frequent traveller, taking 264 flights in the past five years.

The case continues today.

Multi-million court claim launched against Louise Woodward

Nick Hopkins

THE parents of Matthew Eappen, the eight-month-old boy killed by Louise Woodward, yesterday launched a multi-million dollar damages claim in an effort to stop her making money from the case.

Sunil and Deborah Eappen are hoping to be awarded the equivalent of between \$1 million and \$5 million for the loss of Matthew, although the sum could be much higher.

If Judge William G. Young rules in favour of the Eappens, they will use the order to prevent Woodward from signing book, TV or film deals. "It would be entirely

wrong for Louise Woodward to be able to profit from this tragedy," said a spokesman for the Eappens.

"If we discovered she had significant assets in the UK, we would try to get the order enforced. If we found out she had done a deal with a film company in another country, we would go there."

Lawyers acting for the Eappens filed papers at the US District Court of Massachusetts at noon. They expect Judge Young to deliver his verdict before Christmas.

The Eappens are seeking compensation and punitive damages from Woodward, who was convicted of Matthew's manslaughter last year. A jury found her guilty

of second degree murder, but Judge Hiller Zobel reduced the charge and freed her on time served.

Woodward, aged 20, from Elton, Cheshire, who now is studying for a law degree in London, was allowed to leave the US when an appeal court upheld the revised verdict.

The 34-page submission states that "The tender age at which Matthew was taken from them compounds the loss for Sunil and Deborah Eappen, for they have been deprived of the benefits of a loved and loving son provides each day of his life."

"This court's assessment... should include the mutual satisfaction and joy inherent in parenting a child's first steps

and first days at school; bedtime stories; family gatherings during holidays."

The lawyers argue that Matthew would probably have attained an advanced degree, possibly a PhD, and that Woodward should pay the "loss of reasonably expected net income."

The Eappens are also seeking Matthew's medical and funeral expenses of \$30,000, and demand that the punitive damages should match any award for compensation to "ensure adequate punishment of the defendant and deterrence of future wrongdoing."

Courts in the US have awarded punitive damages of more than \$10 million in similar cases.

Sinn Fein calls foul over soccer match with RUC

John Miffin
Ireland Correspondent

A FEARSOME sporting row has split republicans in west Belfast, with a football team coming under pressure from Sinn Fein to withdraw from the semi-finals of one of Northern Ireland's leading cup competitions because it has been drawn to play the RUC.

Players and officials at Donagall Celtic are keen to play the match in the Steel and Son's Cup for junior sides, and aim to defeat the RUC on Saturday week and go into the final on Christmas Day.

But last Thursday leading figures in Sinn Fein arrived at a committee meeting expected to rubber-stamp the decision to play. They urged the club to withdraw.

Among them was assembly member Bairbre de Brun, who called the club's stance "highly insensitive and alarming". The game would insult the local community and families whose "loved ones have been tortured, killed and maimed by the RUC".

The committee agreed to postpone its decision, now expected on Thursday. Relatives for Justice, a nationalist pressure group comprising families of those killed by security forces, will meet the club's committee tonight to demand it withdraw.

Paddy Kelly, manager, said: "All we want is to play football." One player attacked Sinn Fein's "hypocrisy" after it recently used the club for a function. He said: "How dare Gerry Adams or any of his cronies tell us we cannot play against the RUC?"



He doesn't even draw a salary beyond a nominal \$1 a year. His motivation reaches corners of the psyche that mere money can't reach. How Steve Jobs saved Apple

G2 cover story

Police free stowaway migrants

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

POLICE have admitted that asylum seekers discovered hiding in lorries are not being arrested, but are being let go and told to make their own way to immigration centres.

In fact, they should be held at a police station until immigration officials interview them.

The admission yesterday of new Home Office advice to the police angered the Road

Haulage Association, whose drivers face the threat of being fined \$2,000 for every migrant found travelling illegally in their vehicles back to their lorry.

The new Home Office policy is supposed to apply only to asylum seekers fleeing from Kosovo and found in "hot spots" in the South-east around the M25 and M1. It aims to stop police stations becoming "cluttered up with them."

Such people are given the address of the Immigration and Nationality Unit in Croydon, south London, and told

to make their own way there. In some cases police are helping them with a few pounds out of their own pockets.

The confirmation was made by Thames Valley Police after the RHA challenged them about an account given by a lorry driver who was amazed to see police hand a group of Kosovans found in his lorry a piece of paper with directions to Croydon and around £5 in cash.

"It is incredibly ironic that we are being criticised by ministers for letting immigrants go, when police are

being advised to do exactly that," said Dan Hodges of the RHA.

An Immigration Service spokesman said the records demonstrated that virtually everyone directed to Croydon by police had turned up there as genuine refugees were eager to register, because they were likely to be allowed to stay in the country while their claims were considered.

But he added: "The system is wide open to abuse by people claiming to be Kosovans and then just disappearing. It's a disastrous result."

July 2015

Scientists lift the lid on 700-year-old death riddle

By Philip Willan in Rome

SCIENTISTS opened the red porphyry tomb of Frederick II, holy Roman emperor and king of Sicily, yesterday in an All Souls Day operation intended to shed light on the mystery of his death.

Admired by Italians as a precursor of their country's linguistic and political unity — and possibly the last person to provide good government in the south — Frederick is believed to have died of dysentery at Castelfiorentino in southeast Italy in 1250.

But popular legend has it that he was murdered, perhaps suffocated or poisoned by his son. The scientific exploration of his monumental tomb in Palermo Cathedral will, it is hoped, provide historians with new information about his death and his life and times.

There are other questions that have fired the curiosity of historians. Frederick II is not alone in his capacious sepulchre but shares the space with two other bodies.



Frederick enters Jerusalem in 1229. The circumstances of his death remain a mystery

added during the 14th century and believed to be those of William, Duke of Athens, and Peter II, two sons of Frederick II of Aragon.

Their identity is not certain, however, and some reports say that one of the

bodies may actually be that of a woman.

Researchers are also keen to discover what has become of Frederick's crown and sword, which lay next to him when the tomb was last opened in 1781.

There was no sign of them when a miniature camera was used to inspect the inside of the tomb four years ago. Only rags, dust and the straw used by embalmers to stuff the abdomens of the corpses.

Yesterday's initial inspection showed much the same scene, strengthening suspicions of wartime looting by the Nazis.

When the authorities tried to open the tomb in the 15th century they were stopped by a popular revolt against such sacrilege. But yesterday the heavy lid of the tomb was slowly pried off and raised about 2ft, enabling scientists to inspect and film the contents.

Only three experts are allowed near the tomb at any one time and their examination takes place within a two-chambered "clean room" which is designed to protect

the corpses from bacteria of the modern world and the outside world from 700-year-old spores.

Later in the six-week exploration, minute samples will be taken from the remnants of clothes and a leather pillow on which Frederick's head rests.

Scientists also intend to take DNA samples from the corpses to help their identification and allow the study of diseases afflicting Europeans seven centuries ago.

Professor Rosalia Varoli-Piazza, the art historian responsible for overseeing the operation, said: "It is our duty to preserve the remains for as long as possible, but we can't conserve what we do not know."

She added: "The tests should help us to understand whether or not Frederick was poisoned."

But not everyone welcomed the opening of the tomb. Two of Frederick's direct descendants protested that they had not been invited to attend and warned of the possibility of "horrifying" dynastic manipulations.

Conran in Paris



Sir Terence Conran in the bar of his first eatery in Paris, the Alcazar. It is to open at the weekend. "What audacity, what extraordinary audacity, to aim to surprise gourmets in the capital of gastronomy!" said Le Monde. PHOTOGRAPH BY ALASTAIR MILLER

Food capital expects Britain's gastro-tycoon to ring the changes

Jon Henley in Paris

THERE was once a time when every Frenchman knew that the only sure way to eat well in England was to have breakfast three times a day. But those days are gone — and the opening next weekend of Sir Terence Conran's first Paris eatery is beginning to put the wind up the self-proclaimed capital of global gastronomy.

"We are pretty bizarre," said no less a connoisseur of the culinary scene than Alain Ducasse, the first French chef since 1937 to hold six Michelin stars simultaneously. "We're welcoming Sir Terence with open arms, while we have all we need here to succeed

like him. We are being ridiculous; we're playing in the second division."

Mr Ducasse is not alone in fearing that the arrival of Britain's leading gastro-tycoon and disciple of what the French have admirably dubbed *la cuisine New British* may shake up the staid and sometimes stuffy world of Parisian dining.

"They're concerned, for sure," said François Simon, a restaurant reviewer for *Le Figaro*. "Some feel they can benefit from it — it's a symbol that Paris is regaining its status as a food capital. But some are worried things are never going to be the same again. The point is, a lot of French cooking, aside from the superstars, is really stuck with its huge, heavy tradition."

Sir Terence, whose 18 London restaurants, including Bluebird, Mezzzo, Quaglino's and Bibendum and Orrey, now feed more than 70,000 people a week, took two years to find the right venue, obtain the necessary 29 different permits from the French authorities, and find his chef, Guillaume Lutar, aged 30.

The Alcazar, a former transvestite cabaret on the Left Bank, is to open on Saturday. Sir Terence has said he is not looking for Michelin stars, but wants to create a restaurant that is modern and elegant, serving fresh produce at reasonable prices. "Paris invented the brasserie at the beginning of the century," he said. "What we're aiming to do is reinvent it

for the end of the century." Le Monde, for one, is impressed. "Bofinger, Flo, La Coupole, wake up — the Englishman has landed!" it declared in a front-page article. "What audacity, what extraordinary audacity, to aim to surprise gourmets in the capital of gastronomy! But let us not underestimate him."

"Let's be honest, Terence Conran's restaurant will be a big success," said Jean-Paul Bucher of Groupe Flo, whose brasserie chain serves 20,000 people a day. "Our traditions mean we can't be as flexible as they can be in London. The problem is, in France, we haven't been able to transform gastronomy into restaurants, and restaurants into big business."

'End of Belgium as state is nigh' according to Flemish leader

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIUM is unlikely to exist as a state in 20 years' time, according to the leader of the country's Flemish population.

Luc Van den Brande, the minister-president of Flanders, the northern half of Belgium whose people speak Dutch, is calling for a drastic devolution of powers including taxation to the Belgian regions — a move many Belgians see as a prelude to the end of the 187-year-old state. That would make it the first west European state to unravel in more than a century.

"I cannot say in five years but in 2020 or 2015, I am sure that Belgium will not survive

at that time," he said in an interview.

Mr Van den Brande called for the regions to be given autonomous control over taxation, economic policy, health care and family allowances, policing and internal affairs — and even external relations with the Third World.

That would leave the Belgian government providing pensions, and looking after general foreign policy and defence. With the launch of the single currency next year, Belgium will lose much monetary control anyway.

Prosperous Flanders resents seeing its taxes used to help support the population of French-speaking Wallonia in the south — a Socialist stronghold for 100 years —

where heavy industries have long been in decline. Flemish politicians claim that the tax redistribution amounts to each Flanders family buying a new car for a Walloon family every four years.

Mr Van den Brande, aged 53, a Christian Democrat lawyer, is a former Belgian federal minister and has led Flanders for six years.

He is under pressure from the racist Vlaams Blok of rightwing separatists who hope to make gains in the 1999 elections. There is evidence that the party is receiving substantial funding from Flemish businesses.

The Flemish president — who recently gleefully let his pet dog savage a toy black cocker, symbol of Wallonia,

during a television programme — has been hardening his stance towards Flanders francophones.

He insists that Belgium could continue to exist as a state but only on extremely limited terms.

"At present we have only fiscal responsibility for 10 per cent of our budget, with 90 per cent coming from the federal government. We have to reverse that."

"The question of where Belgium can give added value, that is okay for me but I am first and foremost Flemish. The sense of being Belgian is less important than it was 100 years ago."

"We have new interests, we shouldn't be linked to a 19th-century concept of the state."

Eyes in sky marvel at beauty of icy wilds

Tourists can view the coldest continent in comfort, reports **Christopher Zinn** over Antarctica

FROM the comfort and safety of a jumbo jet, 400 people followed in the footsteps of Captain Scott yesterday as summer (in the southern hemisphere) day trips to the Antarctic began and the world shrank a little.

Beneath us on the ice, adventurer Peter Hillary, who is due to start retracing Scott's ill-fated 1912 polar expedition today, used the latest handheld satellite phone to speak to his wife, Yvonne, who was on board.

Mr Hillary, the son of Everest conqueror Sir Edmund, is setting out across the Ross ice shelf from near Mount Erebus, where an Air New Zealand flight crashed in 1979, delaying the development of tourist flying trips to the icy continent for 15 years.

He described visiting Scott's hut, which has remained largely undisturbed, and an extra safety penguin that the British explorer had left on the table to study.

"Nothing rots in Antarctica. I kept thinking Scott was about to knock on the door and come in," he said.

Mr Hillary and two companions have a 100-day return skiing expedition to the geographical South Pole ahead of them, but for the passengers above it was more champagne and ice cream and then an

other low-level pass of pack ice, glaciers and huge mountains.

The destination screen at Melbourne airport had displayed "Qantas Flight 2901 Antarctica 8.30am" between more routine departures to Perth and Hobart. The airline hostess at the boarding gate told passengers: "Please have your Melbourne-South Pole boarding pass ready please."

This charter, the first of 10 in the world's only programme of sightseeing flights over the coldest and windiest continent, was not due to land. We were going for the view and an 11 and a half hour round trip across the Southern Ocean and back.

The flights have to be approved by all the countries that have territorial claims over Antarctica and must comply with strict environmental guidelines.

There are even special polar suits and an extra safety video in the event of a forced landing on the ice.

The 747 jet was full of tourists from all backgrounds who had either been given the seats, which cost from between £300 in economy to £1,250 in first class, as gifts or were fulfilling lifelong dreams to see part of the world's largest wilderness.

"You can go by ship. It will take a minimum of two weeks, the seas will be very

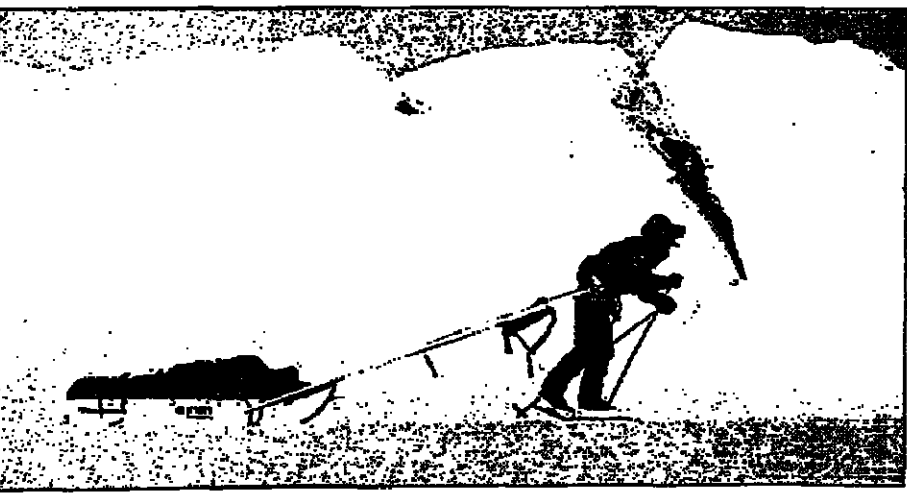
rough and it will cost about £3,000," said Phil Asker, the managing director of Crydon Travel, which arranges visits.

"Our flights are accessible to the normal person and it's one very full day of Antarctic involvement which is much more than just flying over somewhere like the Alps or Greenland."

The visibility in the clear air stretched for 200 miles, allowing views of rugged coastal cliffs, occasional tiny research stations and the spectacular Transantarctic Mountains, from which huge glaciers some 20 miles wide spilled slowly and silently.

Over the magnetic South Pole, which is just off the coast, the hand-held compasses on board went into a spin as they tried to find north which was, for a short while, in every direction. And various experts on Antarctica held court to a spellbound audience.

Peter Keage, who was involved in Australia's Antarctica programme, which claims 40 per cent of the continent, said the scale, size and power of the vistas could only be fully appreciated at first hand. "There's no substitute when you see icebergs larger than the City of London, when you see glaciers draining areas larger than Wales," he said.



Eric Philips (above) drags his sled with food supplies across sea ice during a practice run near Scott Base in Antarctica yesterday. He is part of Peter Hillary's team which will set out on foot today on an 1,800-mile trek to the South Pole and back with just the supplies they are pulling in specially designed sleds. Right, chinstrap penguins on an Antarctic iceberg. PHOTOGRAPHS: ALEXANDER COLHOUN (LEFT), AND BRYAN AND CHERRY ALEXANDER

Whales 'harm Japan catch'

Reuters in Tokyo

JAPANESE whalers, disputing opposition to their trade, say the animals are proliferating and are competing with local fishermen for the available catch, a spokesman for the Japan Whale Research Centre said yesterday.

"According to annual research conducted under the supervision of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the number of minke and sperm whales in the north-western Pacific region is increasing," the spokesman said.

The 46-nation IWC, which consists mainly of North American and European countries, has turned down requests by Japan and other whaling countries for a return to commercial whaling, citing environmental reasons.

"There has been an increase in small to medium-sized whales. And we are hearing many complaints from fishermen. Too many whales can harm fishermen," Nobuyuki Yagi of the Tokyo government's Fisheries Agency said.

The research centre's data said there were 25,000 minke whales and 100,000 sperm whales near Japan.

"We are working hard to persuade the IWC. We hope that commercial whaling can restart within five years," Mr Yagi said.

Fishermen in Japan's north-east are expressing concern, saying there are too many whales and that they were eating Pacific saury and salmon, he added.

"The whales are hungry, and they know where the fish are. They go to the same places the fishermen go," Mr Yagi said.

The IWC introduced an international moratorium on whale hunting in 1982, but Japan and other whaling nations have used a loophole to allow limited whaling on a so-called research basis.

The Japanese government has been calling for more than 10 years for a resumption of commercial whaling.



Malaysia's sacked deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim (left), waves from court where family members including daughter Nurul Huda (right), aged 14, joined foreign observers as the case against him began
PHOTOGRAPH: ED WRAY

Anwar downcast as marathon trial opens

John Gittings in Kuala Lumpur

CROWDS of his supporters gathered silently beyond riot police on guard outside the courthouse yesterday as Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, faced the first day of his long trial on corruption and sodomy charges. As punchy as ever, Mr Ibrahim accused Mahathir Mohamad — the prime minister whose heir he was — of lying. Dr Mahathir, it emerged, may be called to testify. Mr Anwar also said the attorney-general had prejudged his chance of a fair trial by making public comments about the case. But despite this show of defiance he was, after two months in detention, noticeably thinner. He seemed downcast after a series of adverse decisions by Judge Augustine Paul, including a refusal to grant formal admission to international observers — though most of them squeezed into the public gallery unofficially. In language that will go

down well with patriotic Malays, the judge said that the defence application was "an insult to the court. There is no reason to let foreigners check up on us". But the Malaysian Bar Council was excluded altogether, as were half a dozen foreign diplomats. The courthouse, built in colonial Moorish style, was ringed by police with riot shields, clubs, canes and rifles. By noon several hundred of Anwar's supporters, who had hoped to demonstrate outside, were watching from the fringes of Merdeka (Freedom) Square where the courthouse sits in Kuala Lumpur. The defence team unsuccessfully asked the judge to indict Dr Mahathir for contempt of court, following several public statements in which the prime minister has accused Mr Anwar's guilt. Recalling the real political struggle behind the case, Mr Anwar said during a recess that Dr Mahathir had falsely accused him of having verbally agreed — when finance minister — to a controversial \$1.7-billion bid-out of a conglomerate, Renong Bhd.

"Dr Mahathir says I have given a verbal agreement. He was lying," Mr Anwar said. A placard saying "Speak Bahasa Malaysia" beneath the judge's desk was a reminder that he originally intended to conduct the trial in English so as to show an international audience justice was being done. He was overruled by the chief justice, though both teams of lawyers yesterday slipped into English when arguing fine legal points. The main defence submission of the day — that the four corruption charges Mr Anwar is facing in the first phase of the trial be thrown out on grounds that the ordinance on which they were based had been annulled by the lower house of parliament — was rejected. The prosecution has said it plans to call evidence from 52 witnesses on the four initial charges. (The sodomy case is later). Mr Anwar's defence team says that on this witness list is Dr Mahathir, the self-styled "father" who says he was betrayed by the political son and heir he went on to sack in September.



Arafat takes delay with good grace

David Sharrock in Jerusalem

YASSER ARAFAT yesterday agreed to an Israeli delay in implementing the land-for-security deal, even as his minister for Jerusalem affairs was involved in scuffles with Jewish settlers and police. The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, telephoned the Palestinian leader in Gaza to ask for a postponement of a few days. He said he would try to stick to the accord's 12-week timetable and carry out the first troop pull-back in the West Bank as close as possible to the original date of November 15. Mr Arafat, who called Mr Netanyahu his "peace partner" as they signed the Wye summit pact in the White House 11 days ago, accepted the delay with apparent good grace. The agreement was to take effect at midnight last night. But Mr Netanyahu said the deal must first be ratified by his cabinet and parliament. The cabinet will begin its debate today. The parliamentary session is set for November 11-12. Israel lifted a 50-day closure of Gaza and the West Bank yesterday, allowing 60,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs. The closure was imposed amid intelligence reports that the Islamist group Hamas was planning an atrocity to coincide with Jewish holidays. In recent days five attacks — all believed to have been the work of Hamas — have left four Israelis dead.

The ending of the closure suggests Israel is confident that the Palestinian Authority is determined to crack down on Hamas. Hundreds of its members have been rounded up and imprisoned. But just as tension between the two leaders appears to be subsiding and with evidence that the Israeli army is preparing to withdraw bases and equipment from West Bank territory, the bitter struggle over the east Jerusalem district of Ras al-Amud has flared up again. Israeli police scuffled with a senior Palestinian Authority official, Faisal Husseini, and clubbed his bodyguards. He was protesting against the construction of a Jewish enclave. The site was purchased by the American millionaire Irving Moskowitz, who has funded a series of controversial housing schemes in overwhelmingly Arab east Jerusalem. In Ras al-Amud, 132 housing units are planned. Work has also begun to expand two West Bank settlements. A Palestinian official, Hanan Asfour, said: "This is the most dangerous step against the peace process." Mr Netanyahu, denying a newspaper report that he had given President Clinton an assurance not to engage in "substantial" settlement expansion, said: "We will continue to allow the growth of existing communities." Israel's first real test will come two weeks into the accord when 2 per cent of the West Bank is to be transferred from sole Israeli control to shared rule and 7.1 per cent is to be handed over to sole Palestinian control.

Agent Orange cancer link 'was covered up'

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THOUSANDS of Vietnam veterans, now known to cause cancer, were refused compensation or denied treatment because of corruption, concealment and manipulation of a United States air force medical study, it has been claimed. Richard Zuckerman, one of four scientists who designed the study but who was later transferred after making criticisms, has broken his silence in an investigative report by the San Diego Union-Tribune. Dr Albanese charges military authorities with "a medical crime" in their handling of the report, which was flawed because of its conflict of interest — the air force both sprayed the defoliant and researched its effects. The study, named after Operation Ranch Hand in which

the US sprayed 18 million gallons of Agent Orange over 3.6 million acres of Vietnamese forests to strip the leaves to expose enemy movements, began in 1979 and will continue into 2008. It monitors the health of 1,000 military personnel who did the spraying. Many have died or have cancer and other illnesses. Some have fathered children with birth defects. The air force wrote two reports on Agent Orange in 1984, but published only one. It concluded that little difference appeared between the health of Ranch Hand personnel and a comparison group. But a table was removed which showed that Ranch Hand veterans were "less well" by a 5:1 ratio, that their children had more birth defects, and that they suffered twice as many cancers. Dr Albanese said the phrase "a degree of concern is warranted" was deleted from the report. He said thousands of veterans have not been

compensated because of the slanted conclusions. The section on birth defects was not published until 1992, because scientists had not examined the healthy babies, the air force said. Yet the draft report had said only a year was needed to verify those records. The delayed report confirmed the incidence of birth defects and infant deaths among Ranch Hand children. But because the defects did not increase consistently with exposure to dioxin, a carcinogen in Agent Orange, the scientists concluded they could not blame the herbicide. In 1994 the National Academy of Sciences criticised the report and concluded that scientists had omitted "hundreds of subjects." "Some aspects of the Ranch Hand experience seem to have increased the risk of fathering children with birth defects," the NAS report said, "but the implications of the air force finding are unclear."



Villified four years ago, Hillary Clinton — seen here on the stump in San Francisco — is now the Democrats' best weapon

PHOTOGRAPH: BEN MARGOT

Democrats ahead on eve of elections

Martin Kettle in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton's Democratic Party yesterday took a surprise narrow opinion poll lead before today's mid-term US elections, with a publication of the Start Report on the Monica Lewinsky scandal means each party could make gains at the other's expense as voters choose 36 state governors, 31 senators and all 435 members of the House of Representatives. A Gallup poll taken between Thursday and Sunday among likely voters found 49 per cent intending to vote for Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives, against 45 per cent Republican support. A poll by the Pew Research Centre showed the Democrats in the lead, though by a narrow

margin 46-44 per cent margin. It reverses a 45-43 Republican advantage in a Pew poll two weeks ago. With the national polls, as well as a host of surveys of state races, all showing the parties' shares within the margin of statistical error, today's election is turning into a classic "too-close-to-call" contest, signalling no major shift of power in Congress. Fewer than 40 per cent of voters are expected to turn out, and record campaign spending is expected to favour incumbents. In addition to the elections, voters in several states will also vote in more than 200 referendums on issues ranging from abortion to marijuana legislation. National interest in today's elections will inevitably focus on any changes in the balance of power in the two houses of Congress, both of which were elected back in response to Democratic recoveries. Most observers now predict an overall Republican gain of around three seats, not enough to override Democratic filibusters and well short of the 67 needed in any vote to impeach Mr Clinton.

In most mid-term years, the party in the White House loses seats in Congress. The House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, said at the weekend that he still expected his Republican Party to be "somewhere between plus eight and plus 30". Most neutral observers are now predicting narrow Republican gains. "This race overall is winding up about where it started," said Ron Faucheux, the editor of Campaigns and Elections magazine. "Things seem to be where they were in late 1997, pre-Monica." "There is some kind of a Democratic rally here," said pollster Andrew Kohut, who directed the Pew Centre survey. "It may be transient, but it's here for now." With the party defending a 55-45 advantage in the Senate, the Democratic candidate in this year's 34 contests have been scaled back in response to Democratic recoveries. Most observers now predict an overall Republican gain of around three seats, not enough to override Democratic filibusters and well short of the 67 needed in any vote to impeach Mr Clinton.

Hillary's stardust to the rescue

Julian Borger in Washington on the campaign queen who brushed with political death

FROM New York, the arena for the toughest, highest-spending, most acidic Senate battle in the country, the Democratic candidate has the emergency button in the last hours of the mid-term election campaign yesterday, and the call went out. It was for Hillary Clinton. The First Lady was supposed to have had the day off after landing her star status to 18 Democratic rallies in a dozen states over the course of a week. But Charles "Chuck" Schumer was all but down on his knees (according to the White House) begging her to return only five days after her last morale-boosting New York visit. With the opinion polls showing him neck-and-neck with the Republican incumbent, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Mr Schumer believed he just needed a second benediction to

push him over the line before today's election. So Hillary Clinton's campaign staff gave in and made the travel arrangements. The contrast with the 1994 United States election could not be more striking. In those days Democratic Party candidates were almost pleading with her to stay away. She was seen as the manipulative, un-elected half of a then decreasingly popular White House partnership. Now, aged 51, she is the hottest presence on the campaign trail, far more visible than the president, and way ahead of the next man in the Democrats' pantheon, Senator Ted Kennedy. The telephones in Mrs Clinton's office have rung non-stop throughout the campaign with appeals from embattled candidates for rides on her electoral coat-tails. She has hop-scotched across the states

and recorded more than a hundred radio and television advertisements. She has focused on Democrats in difficulties, such as Senator Carol Mosely-Braun in Illinois, governorship candidate Buddy Mackay in Florida and of course, Mr Schumer in New York. Sharing a campaign platform with Mrs Clinton last week, the senate hopeful spoke about her in terms normally reserved for silver-screen legends. "When you're in her presence, you feel a little bit of a tingle. I do," Mr Schumer said excitedly. Across the country, tens of thousands of registered Democrats came home yesterday to hear a personal message from Mrs Clinton, electronically dialed to their answering machines. Just the sound of her voice is supposedly imbued with magical mobilising power. What has happened in four years to make Hillary Clinton the new Democratic royalty? Part of the explanation is the scandal over President Clinton's liaison with Monica Lewinsky. The polls say

72 per cent of Americans admire Mrs Clinton's courage. She has a 93 per cent popularity rating, seven clear points ahead of her husband. Clearly the role of wronged wife is more appealing than that of temerarious political activist — her image in 1994 following her unsuccessful

ing herself," Mr Hess said. "Her poll ratings keep going up as the woman who stands by her man, which isn't a very feminist place to be." Paradoxically, Hillary Clinton, the loyal wife, is now more sought after than ever for her thoughts on healthcare, and other social issues. She, of course, says nothing about her domestic life. Toby Graff, one of her spokeswomen, said: "She's really able to talk about the issues, childcare and healthcare, which really matter to families right now... We've been doing double the amount of campaigning as '94." "Times are so different now. I think it's a reaction to the failure of the Republicans in Congress to make a positive impact on these issues." Mr Hess thinks there is a more prosaic reason for Mrs Clinton's leading role — she has to make up for the conspicuous absence of her husband, lying low due to the scandal. "Her speeches are very similar to '96," he said, "but this time, she's the only game in town".

City sues gun firms

Julian Borger in Washington

THE city of New Orleans has become the first authority in United States history to take the country's powerful gun manufacturers to court, demanding compen-

sation for the damage their products have caused in the murder-ridden Big Easy. Mayor Marc Morial aims to do it with a lawsuit against Smith & Wesson, Colt, Remington-Union and 18 other handgun makers. Louisiana did not sue gun firms in 1994. The landmark case, which

went to a district court on Friday, accuses the manufacturers of failing to "personalise" guns with safety devices that would allow only the owners to fire them. Mr Morial said: "We will not rest until we make New Orleans the safest city in America."



Diary
Matthew Norman

TODAY'S Diary is a celebration of the life (so far) of Paul Johnson, whose biblically-allotted three score years and 10 expired yesterday. Writing on the 70th birthday itself, I feel strangely moved. Paul and I have been close for many years, ever since we met at a Carla Powell lingerie party in 1982 and found we shared an adoration for Margaret Thatcher that Colin Powell would be the next US President on the day the General withdrew from the race. But his gift for soothing saying goes back to 1963, when he landed "the astonishing stability of sexual morality," predicting "virginity will remain a girl's best friend". Just months before the launch of the pill.

WIDELY fabled for his prophetic powers, Paul assured Spectator readers that Colin Powell would be the next US President on the day the General withdrew from the race. But his gift for soothing saying goes back to 1963, when he landed "the astonishing stability of sexual morality," predicting "virginity will remain a girl's best friend". Just months before the launch of the pill.

GREAT seer though he is, Paul is barely less venerated for the rigorous research that goes into his many books. In his recent masterpiece *A History of the American People*, he credited Edison with the invention of the telephone, translated *Ich bin ein Berliner* as "I am a hamburger" and "numerous other errors" and yet there were pages — some think 20, others say as many as 25 — on which not a single howler appeared.

ASTICKLER for fiscal integrity, the great defender of Jonathan Aitken was livid when the Guardian's editor (along with most senior Fleet Street executives) flew to Hong Kong at his paper's expense for the handover. This, he thundered, was an outrageous freebie. When in 1992, he was the only British back to accept an all expenses paid trip to a Moonie conference in Korea, this was acceptable, as he explained, since he was paid a fortune to attend.

THE stern sexual moralist, who refers to Matthew Parris as "the Times's Sodomy correspondent", can no more abide a vicious tongue than he can a hypocrite. Indeed, when he published his version of the Ten Commandments for children in the Daily Mail, Number Four counselled: "Guard your words, in case they hurt." Number Nine, meanwhile, ordered: "Never use weapons — they can kill." On the day this appeared, meanwhile, his Spectator column concluded with the earnest wish that California be used for trials of the neutron bomb.

My own favourite of Paul's books is *The Quest for God*, the Christmas stocking filler in which he included beseeching prayers for his friends Princess Diana and Jonathan Aitken. Since it worked so well for them I would like to end today with a prayer of my own for him. "Almighty and eternal God, who rules over the states and kingdoms of the world, love thy humble, sane and rational servant Paul Johnson with all thy might. Be always at his side in his perplexities, Divine Father, and forgive him his sins. For although he knew exactly what he did, verily, O Lord, he could not help being an extremely naughty boy anyway."



I was wrong: voters have got the sex lives of politicians in perspective

Hugo Young



IN THIS age, we gorge on intimacies. The secrets of the power elite have never been more lubriciously exposed. Whether it's Ron Davies's sex orientation, or Peter Mandelson's private parts, we're told the lot. Taste and discretion are now unknown to the reporting of politicians. Yet we may be on the verge of discovering that this gorging, this raging torrent of supply, rests on a premise that is fundamentally false. I say this as one who believed it. I equated popular appetites with popular attitudes, and have perhaps been absolutely wrong. Wrong, though, in a large company, for whom this week ought to be a re-defining moment.

Today was supposed to be the one that buried President Clinton out of sight. A month ago, after the most humiliating inquisition in the history of the presidency, he was toast. The November congressional elections would shift his condition from the perilous to the terminal, as the great American public voted more imperious into place, sweeping away the spectre of pleading, the sophisticated talk-outs and all the other subterfuges used by Clinton Democrats to sustain their fallen leader. Even if he survived, his presidency would cease to be. Morality aside, you just thought what a jerk, wrecking his authority on a single easy piece, leaving the world leaderless until 2001.

But consider what has happened. The people aren't following the script. The Republicans don't look as though they will get the votes for impeachment, and might even finish up worse than they began. The scheming New York Republican boss, Sen D'Amato, may be the

toast. Newt Gingrich faces the looming fact, as he did soon after the apparent triumph of hard rightism in 1994, that he over-reached his ambition. It seems likely that the message from the voters, after being forced to examine every aspect of Clinton's sex life, including the lies he told about it, is utterly different from the analysis made by the media. This is not the first time, but the most resonant I can recall, when we've read the people wrong.

For Clinton is already showing his iron constitution. Even before today's mid-term elections, he was recovering. He went about his business, and the fever began to pass, partly because of outrage at the illicit tyrannies of Prosecutor Starr but also because sheer survival brings its own reward. The normalcy of post-Lewinsky Clinton is almost a fact of political life. He can negotiate, without any impediment, over the Middle East. He can appear in public, without being laughed at. If today the Congressional balance stays about the same, he will have gained a huge moral victory. His transgressions on the way to not mattering after all.

Why? One reason is what he stands for. Clintonism survives even the peccadilloes of its hero. That's the way it will look from Downing St at any rate, where they're so keenly on the look-out for evidence that the durability of third-way politics transcends the worst personal setbacks. And it's true enough. Within the limits of the possible, Clinton has managed to take credit for all the gains, and blame others for most of the failures, of the past six years. The closest of his intimacies is with public opinion. He's a superlative performer in that way.

But there's more to this blatant disjunction than a skilful president and Republicans bent on overkill. People resist their reaction being taken for granted, and will vote accordingly. Added to that must be the sense that the media have simply mis-conceived what is going on. They've made gross assumptions about public attitudes that the people do not share. They assume that the voters want their leaders to be perfect, and that any contrary narrative they can dredge up answers a popular lust to punish all transgressors. They think their incessant revelations are doing the public's work, and sometimes God's. They're prepared to claim that their outbursts of moral indignation reflect the popular will. And so a picture builds up, whereby any disclosure is justified, and the most extreme conclusions about a politician's credibility are drawn from it.

IN ONE way, the voters are complicit in this phony edifice. For they do always want to read and watch the media effusions, the more intrusive the better. The public appetite for sex stories is probably insatiable. But the mistake the media make — the reason many of us seem to have got the Clinton business so badly wrong — is to assume the readers are also fanatical. They will cut their appetite for sex stories, whether of Peter Mandelson, Bill Clinton, or even, close to home in Wales at least, Ron Davies.

The public, on the contrary, seem to be remarkably tolerant about sex. Clinton has tested this to destruction and survived, perhaps done more to survive — and there's no reason to suppose the British public is any more bereft of

perspective than the American. What afflicts both countries, if this is so, is a kind of double-take: an extravagant media judgmentalism based on a claim to be able to read and represent the public mind which turns out to be thoroughly dubious. There's a serious argument to be had about whether so-and-so's personal behaviour is intrinsically rotten, disqualifying him from public work: which wasn't the case with Clinton. But the popular will, whether deployed as an alibi for moralising or a basis for political assessment, needs to be given credit for a lot more society than newspapers or television, from the highest to the lowest, usually reflect.

Stealing public funds, or profiteering from a public job, will always be another matter. Whitewater, if it added up to a row of beans, could have been tricky for the president. But on private sex, the public keeps its head. If the public man is doing a good job, who cares? The people like to know, but then don't judge. This makes politicians paranoid about their privacy just as misplaced as media hysteria about the discoveries they make when they invade it. Behind both groups stand voters who don't seem to experience half the heat they're assumed to do, as long as the politicians are doing honest, steady, committed public work. Wrenching the media away from sex probes may be impossible. But the Clinton story shows the high ground they claim is spurious. That's a benign and amazing outcome. Will it be heard, and listened to, and widely broadcast? Politicians don't become unpopular, or ineligible, or incredible through their private habits. Hold the front page.

Until two recent defeats, police officers always won libel actions

Standing up to PC Bully

Paul Foot



ALLOW me a moment's exquisite ecstasy at the sensational libel victory of Channel 4 over the Police Federation. The federation brought the case on behalf of a Gloucester police officer who had told a vital witness in a murder case not to bother turning up for the committal hearing. At the murder trial, the officer denied having any such conversation with the witness, which was rather embarrassing since the witness had recorded it. The costs of the libel case have been estimated at £1 million. An unflustered Police Federation spokesman boasted that this was only the second defeat in 100 libel actions brought by the federation and their brilliant lawyers, Russell Jones & Walker. Typical of the federation's triumphs was a grovelling apology and damages paid to several police officers by the small and impecunious Camden Journal — over an article which criticised a police raid, but did not name a single police officer.

Until the two recent defeats, a Russell Jones & Walker writ on behalf of a police officer led almost invariably to an out-of-court settlement, heavy damages and an apology, it hardly seemed worth going to court to pit the words of mere journalists against those of police officers and their families sobbing at the terrible humiliation of the libel, and backed by the federation. Now that a blessed English jury has found against an officer, perhaps more publications will stand up and fight. Most professional organisations (the Medical Defence Union for instance) have recently shown some caution about libel writs. Let's hope the Police Federation follows suit.

I QUITE understand why a high official at the BBC felt it necessary to issue a warning to staff to stop embarrassing Peter Mandelson. It really is extraordinary that BBC staff find it so difficult to recognise the friends of director general Sir John Birt. After all, Sir John has very few friends and even fewer admirers, and it's not difficult to remember their names. Mr Mandelson and Sir John are old mates from London Weekend Television, where they basked in each other's mediocrity. Another good friend of Sir John's is Bob Ayling of British Airways. It was reckless of BBC's Newsnight in 1994 to broadcast a programme about John Gor-

than, who says he's been grossly victimised and even beaten up by agents of British Airways (Gorman's story was set out in detail by David Palfister in Saturday's Guardian), and much more reckless to try to put out a second programme on the subject in 1996. Despite lavish spending of licence payers' money, that second one never went out.

MOST commentators seemed to agree with Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, that he "did nothing wrong" when he wrote to a planning minister on behalf of a Cypriot millionaire who wanted to build a sports stadium 100 miles away from Meale's constituency; nor in travelling over and over again at other people's expense to Cyprus. He didn't break the rules, runs the argument, so he "did nothing wrong". My view is that if you go to parliament to represent the people of Mansfield at public expense, then every penny, every freebie accepted from someone else is an insult to those people. The superiority of representative democracy over the proprietorial oligarchy which it succeeded lies in the bonds which the people without property to their representatives. Start to loosen those bonds and you start to hand

Let's hope the Police Federation now shows some caution over writs

back the system of government to the oligarchs. We expect Tories to treat their parliamentary salaries as pocket money compared to what they earn "outside". But it was the demands of the young Labour Party which in 1911 won the principle of payment of MPs from public funds. The point was not just to make it possible for working-class people to become MPs, but to shield MPs from the undemocratic pressures of inherited or corporate wealth. So when a Labour MP intercedes on behalf of a millionaire who is not even a constituent, it is, well — how shall I put it? — wrong.

A VERY important person, and a Labour supporter, de-nounced the Comment last week for being "influenced by a few paranoid hacks in Fleet Street". Can you identify him and his complaint from the following?

1. Mohamed Fayed about his passport;
2. Prince Charles about his recent biography;
3. Ron Davies about the Downing Street press office;
4. Rupert Murdoch about the inevitable and proper reference of Sky's bid for Manchester United to the Monopolies Commission.

Clue: Mr Murdoch employs, and exploits for his commercial purposes, more paranoid hacks than anyone else in the entire history of the world.

Blair, Schröder, and the Europeans all huddle together as the global free market falls apart

Hanging together

John Gray

When the Blair Government came to power the global free market seemed like an unalterable reality. American capitalism was held up as a model that every other country was bound to copy. Under the aegis of a "New Paradigm", the world was about to enter an era of unbroken stability and unending growth.

Today, those who propagated this fantasy have been left gasping as a regime they took to be permanent has begun to collapse around them. At the recent informal meeting of European leaders in Austria, and yesterday, meeting German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Tony Blair took the first tentative steps in shaping a new policy which recognises that the world has changed

irreversibly. The global free market is falling apart. In a move that is certain to be emulated by other developing countries, Malaysia has introduced old-fashioned exchange controls. Hong Kong has torn up the free-market rule-book and provided government support for the stock market. Above all, Russia has rejected the policies imposed on it by the western economic consensus.

Russia's crisis is no longer primarily economic. By now it is a crisis of the state. The neoliberal economic policies demanded by the West have not only resulted in a collapse in living standards that has no precedent in 20th-century peacetime history. They have left Russia without a functioning modern state. Cities and regions are refusing to pay taxes to the federal government. Some are flirting with customs

controls. In much of the country there is little that resembles government of any kind. The aftermath of Russia's financial collapse has shaken banks throughout the world. But that is not the most serious threat to the global free market. The chief risk is at its epicentre — the US. Any

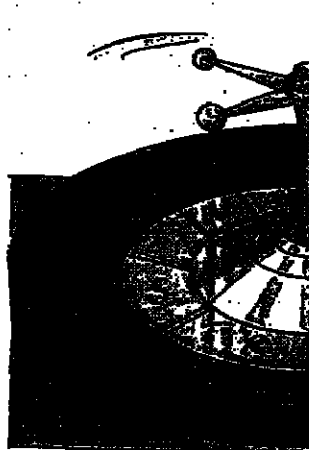
European leaders are taking tentative joint steps towards a new policy

further shock to the American stockmarket — from Brazil, Japan or another collapsing hedge fund — could have large consequences for its economy. Americans have come to see the stockmarket as an automatic device for creat-

ing wealth. As a result, they have virtually ceased saving. Once they discover that the wealth on which they were relying for their retirement is largely illusory, they will cut their spending sharply. How will the US respond to the unfamiliar experience of recession? And what will be the impact on the rest of the world?

America's brief experiment in imperial laissez-faire was, in effect, a highly leveraged bet on Wall Street. Over the coming months and years ordinary Americans are likely to see their economic security increasingly at risk from a continuing stockmarket slide. With rising unemployment and the growing realisation that much of America's wealth was a stockmarket illusion, the US commitment to the free market will be tested to destruction. A Congressional

tilt to protectionism is practically unavoidable. But that will be a signal to the world that the US is no longer committed to the postwar consensus on free trade. At the same time it will mean that the disarray of America's governing in-



stitutions is nowhere near a resolution. Already badly weakened, President Clinton can hardly survive the prospect of a slump. "It was the economy, stupid!" could turn out to be the message written on his tombstone. Whether or not

Clinton serves out the remainder of his term, a resurgence of American economic nationalism must be on the cards.

The era of the free market in which Labour came to power is a fading memory. In other European countries, left-of-centre governments are thinking about policies that go well beyond the bankrupt orthodoxies of that vanished world. There have been times when the British government seemed to be gambling that the fantasy world of the New Paradigm would somehow return. Tony Blair's commitment to European cooperation suggests that he may have recognised that that is the riskiest bet of all.

John Gray is Professor of European Thought at the LSE. His book, *Faith in the Future: The Delusions of Global Capitalism*, is published by Granta.

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Rosamund John

Cool under fire

IN THE 1940s, Hollywood might have had Lauren Bacall, Rita Hayworth, Betty Grable, Lana Turner and Veronica Lake exploiting their sexuality, while British films had only Margaret Lockwood and Jean Kent to try to match them. Mostly, however, British actresses like Phyllis Calvert, Patricia Roc, Celia Johnson, Valerie Hobson — and Rosamund John, who has died aged 85 — expressed a cooler sensuousness, and, when required, a quivering stiff upper lip.

Rosamund John exemplified the latter in *The Way To The Stars* (1945), Anthony Asquith's moving RAF drama. As "Toddy" (Miss Todd), the manageress of the pub near the airfield, she is the moral fulcrum of the film, holding its two parts together. First, she loses David (Michael Redgrave), her pilot husband in an air crash, then the cocky American flyer (Douglas

Montgomery). In the scene when she is told by John Mills of her husband's death, she portrays all the stoicism and dignity that only widows in British films could aspire to. In the end, she advises Mills to marry, despite the dangers of the times. "If I could go back five years now and choose again whether or not to fall in love with him, to marry him and bear his child, I'd choose again to have things happen exactly as they did before... Any other woman in the world would tell you the same."

The Way To The Stars was the high point of Rosamund John's career, though she was a reassuring presence in a number of other films of the period. Her first leading role was as the supportive, long-suffering wife of R J Mitchell (Leslie Howard), the designer of the Spitfire in *The First Of The Few* (1942). She had made only one brief

previous screen appearance eight years before, billed as Rosamund Jones, her real name, as a Scots girl in *The Secret Of The Loch*. In between, she did some stage acting, notably as the wife of Dick Dudgeon (Robert Donat) in Shaw's *The Devil's Disciple* (1940). Despite her inexperience, she was cast by Donat, who was in love with her at the time, and received bad notices. These were forgotten when Howard gave her a break in *The First Of The Few*. Although born in Tottenham, north London, John played another Scot, one of seven good-natured and heroic new recruits into the ATS in *The Gentle Sex* (1943). Howard's gently persuasive propaganda film. In the same year, she died in a plane crash. Howard produced *The Lamp Still Burns*, another celluloid recruiting poster, this time for wartime nurses. John was impressive as an architect who gives up

both her career and fiancé (Stewart Granger) to dedicate herself to nursing. At the time Variety wrote: "A more intelligent, sensitive performance than this sober-visaged, self-restrained girl turns in, in a long and difficult role, has never been captured by a British camera."

As a nurse again, on a convalescent walking tour with an injured airman, she discovered a rare bird in *Tummy Pipet* (1944), an endearing little England film in which there was some mention of this, though purely of an ornithological nature. Still in nurse's uniform, John appeared to more dramatic effect in the comedy-thriller *Green For Danger* (1946), as one of the suspects of two murders that take place in a country hospital. A year later she was the victim of murder, falling from a high window in *The Upturned Glass* (1947).

In her last decent film, *Fame Is The Spur* (1947), John played the suffragette wife of a corrupt Labour MP (Michael Redgrave), the one person who sees through him, but loves him anyway. In fact, three years later, she was to marry John Silkin, a lawyer and active Labour Party member — he entered the House of Commons in 1963.

After a few more minor films, she gave up acting to have her son, and give her time to politics. She had been an Equity representative on the working party on film production costs, and served on other committees to improve the lot of people in the film and television industry. After Silkin's death in 1987, she remained committed to the Labour Party.

Ronald Bergan

Rosamund John (Mora Rosamund Jones), actress, born October 19, 1913; died October 27, 1998

Stiff upper lip... Rosamund John with Stanley Holloway in *The Way To The Stars*

Rosamund the rose... 'portraying all the stoicism and dignity that only widows in British films can aspire to'

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Most of the millions who pass along the dual carriageway a few yards from Holton (100 inhabitants, 100 miles from London and from Plymouth) will not notice that the village exists. Time was when it stood on a busy turnpike road, boasted two inns, a limekiln, a blacksmith and a variety of tradesmen and shops. A local historian records that, "at the Old Inn, thirty souls from Wincanton and elsewhere moistened their dry pipes with the celebrated home-brewed ale".

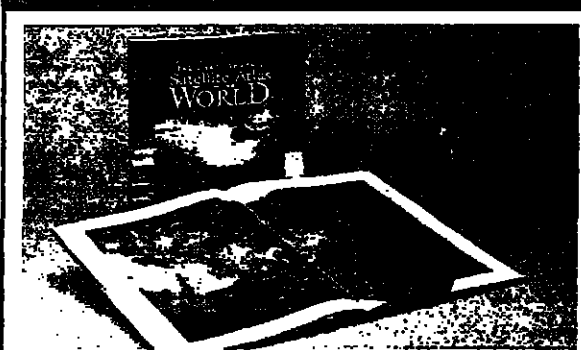
The narrow street, and solid, square stone buildings around the church now look almost too peaceful to be real — I saw no cars, and very few people. But I did detect signs of life up towards the Old Inn, an institution with a talent for long survival, adapting to an ever-changing social environment, but remaining authentically itself. Robert Day

was inn-keeper there in 1630, and there have been 25 since him. When the new road came, the brewery calculated that what had been a roadside inn would no longer make enough money, so now it is owner-occupied. There is no central directive from a design consultant about themes or colour codes. The owner is repainting the white walls of the long, low bar-room himself. Takings have risen since the Old Inn became a free house.

There are not many thirsty carter nowadays, but enough locals with a bit of time and a taste for good ale. And discerning travellers between London and the west, who have chanced to read a discreet advertisement including the name Egon Ronay, and who fancy a change from the next Happy Easter, find their way to the restaurant.

JOHN VALLINS

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Sonny Knight

Music: the truth in black and white

SONNY KNIGHT, who has died aged 64, was a singer and pianist who wrote songs in a "teenbeat" vein. He also wrote an extraordinary book. As an expose of music business corruption, *The Day The Music Died* has no equal: it is simply the best.

Born in Maywood, Illinois, Knight moved to Chicago as an infant: there he heard Dizzy Gillespie and Frankie Laine on the jukebox, and Muddy Waters playing the blues at the end of the street. By 1947 he was in Los Angeles, where local culture revolved around a mixture of "blacks, Chicanos and the Ames Brothers". He attended the same high school as songwriter Mike Stoller.

Like most young black musicians of his generation, Knight could play the blues, but it was not his favoured genre. He wanted to play jazz at first, settling instead for the teenage fare of Friday night sock-hop: raunchy numbers like saxophonist Hal Singer's *Cornbread* and dance tunes with the insistent "shuffle" beat of the day. As his piano playing improved, he joined forces with a drummer friend and toured with r&b package shows headlined by artists such as Chuck Berry. His music seldom got

any more rootsy; it was nearer Richie Valens and *La Bamba* than Big Joe Turner. Knight's earliest recordings, made for the Aladdin label, included the humorous *But Officer*. In 1956 he cut *Confidential* and spent five weeks in the charts. He wrote most of his own material, and for bluesmen such as Miltburn, *Vicious Vicious*. Then, in the midst of Beatlemania, he charted again with the single *If You Want This Love*.

Close contact with the record producers who used his songs allowed him to observe at first-hand their routine chicanery and exploitation. He was angry at the way whites copied and absorbed black originality, and eventually, after moving to Hawaii in the 1970s, he began writing a novel about the trend. *The Day The Music Died*, which appeared in 1981 under his real name, Joseph C. Smith, avoided litigation by offering the narrative as fiction, but thinly-veiled portraits of prominent record producers emerge from a caustic analysis of the music business. It is a huge, fast-moving thriller in which a Berry Gordy-type wrestles with the Mafia and talks of his determination to keep profits within the black community while whites mark time.

"learning to steal not only a way of doing the music, but getting ready to steal the feeling in our hearts."

Knight saw the music business as an extension of the plantation, and conservative reviewers did not approve. The New York Times did a hatchet-job, as he told me: "I suppose their rationale was, America's image of itself is tarnished enough without allowing a black, ex-r&b musician to invade the public consciousness with opinions

As an expose of corruption, it is simply the best

of what it morally acceptable and what is not." Other reviews were more positive, resulting in a visit to England, where Knight met the coterie of serious rock-music historians and began absorbing information for a planned second volume. He wanted to analyse the period when Jimi Hendrix — "the black whiteman" — entered the mainstream via his beatification in Britain; he was fascinated by what he regarded as the appropriation of the black soul by an alien culture

and saw the guitarist's dramatic trajectory as key.

Knight never completed his project. The writer Bill Miller, who produced a compilation of his recordings for Sweden's Route 66 label, befriended him on his visit to London and kept in touch. He even lent Knight his diaries to help with background for the British r&b period, but hassles with publishers, agents and television companies wore him down. It seems possible that he realised he couldn't quite grasp why black music had made such an impact here, or what made England tick. He certainly liked the country and wrote to tell me he would grab his typewriter and golf clubs and head for Heathrow whenever the BBC beckoned.

There were plans for a mini-series based on the novel, but nothing transpired. Knight's moment of glory faded and he returned to the world of hotel lounge entertainment. At the Hyatt, on the island of Maui, he kept tourists happy until suffering a stroke two years ago.

Val Wilmer

Sonny Knight (Joseph Coleman Smith) singer, songwriter, pianist, author, born May 17, 1934; died September 5, 1998

Birthdays

Adam Ant, pop singer, 44; Roseanne Barr, comedienne, 46; Lord (Kenneth) Baker, CH, former Conservative minister, 64; Crawford Beveridge, chief executive, Scottish Enterprise, 53; Lord (John) Biffen, former Conservative minister, 68; Charles Bronson, actor, 76; The Earl of Caithness, former Conservative minister, 50; Frank Cook, Labour MP, 63; Michael Dukakis, former US presidential candidate, 65; Violetta Elvin, prima ballerina, 73; Roy Emerson, tennis player, 62; Jean Floud, sociologist, 83; Sir Philip Goodhart, former Conservative MP, 73; John Heppell, Labour MP, 50; Larry

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

AMONG OUR tributes to Ted Hughes, page 5, October 30, there was one which inadvertently suggested he demanded to be read alongside Rupert Graves. Rupert Graves is an actor; Robert Graves was the poet.

IN A report headed, Churchill planned to denounce Germany in gas, page 3, yesterday, we referred to the threat posed by the V2 "doodlebug". It was the V1 that was referred to as the doodlebug.

A GUARDIAN advertisement, page 7, G2, yesterday, headed

My very first books... recommended two titles as "Read allowed books for 4-8 year olds."

KEITH Floyd's new television series, which started last night, is *Floyd Uncovered* not *Floyd Uncovered* (Me and my motor, page 15, G2, yesterday).

THE PHOTOGRAPH at the foot of page 4, Sport, yesterday, was wrongly captioned. It did not show Lee Mills, who scored Bradford's first goal, but Peter Beagrie, who scored the fourth goal.

A MAP on page 12 yesterday, accompanying an article headed, Palestinians thirsting for justice on tap, showed Syria in the place of Jordan.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5559 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor: The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5887. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

CAMPBELL, Norman, born in Melbourne, Australia, died peacefully on October 28th, 1998. Much loved husband of Elsie, father of John and Kenneth, grandfather of Sally, Vanessa and Jonathan. Funeral service at the Kensington Crematorium, Kensington Park, London W8, on Monday 5 November at 2.30pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Royal Cancer Society. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to cancer research.

FLANNERY, Thomas Harold Flannery MBE, F.R.S., died peacefully on October 28th, 1998. Much loved husband of Elsie, father of John and Kenneth, grandfather of Sally, Vanessa and Jonathan. Funeral service at the Kensington Crematorium, Kensington Park, London W8, on Monday 5 November at 2.30pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Royal Cancer Society. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to cancer research.

NOTES: A memorial service will be held at 2.30pm, Thursday 19th November at St James's, Piccadilly. All are welcome. To place your announcement, telephone 0171 733 4547 or fax 0171 733 4767 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

Tom Torney

A populist and his perks

ON THE surface, the former Labour MP for Bradford South, Tom Torney, who has died aged 83, was a raucous, headline-chasing, gut-left populist, in politics mainly to correct the wrongs done to fellow shopworkers. He supported nationalisation and was hostile to the European Community.

He resisted Edward Heath's drive to join the Common Market, even boycotting the then Prime Minister's honorary doctorate ceremony at Bradford University. A member of the Tribune Group, he attacked the New Statesman as "scurrilous" after its then editor, Anthony Howard, criticised Harold Wilson's leadership for polluting the "atmosphere of politics".

As an MP, he was also, initially, a delight for tabloid journalists, who enjoyed his outspoken, often half-considered instant quotes. Sometimes, as in urging a ban on immature baby-sitters, he was shrewd. He also warned against inflammable after-shave and umbrellas with pointed tips. He was indefatigable in fighting against Sunday trading — "pandering to

the general public" — and wage control, when Ted Heath kept shopworkers' wages down around £15 a week.

But in the mid-1970s Torney was exposed for accepting minor perks. It not only damaged him and the reputation of politicians but cast a long shadow over honest Joe Ashton, the MP for Bassetlaw who was blamed for blowing the whistle on a "comrade". In January 1975 Torney began working for a lobbying outfit that was attempting to block the Labour government's plans to nationalise a ship repairing company. Soon afterwards, with a corrupt Tory collaborator, the late Sir Stephen Macdonald, he began inviting fellow MPs to Commons luncheons to be brainwashed against nationalisation. When Ashton exposed the ruse, Torney was forced to resign from the lobbyists, though he insisted that the jobs were simply ways of enjoying the perks of being an MP, as understood in the North-east.

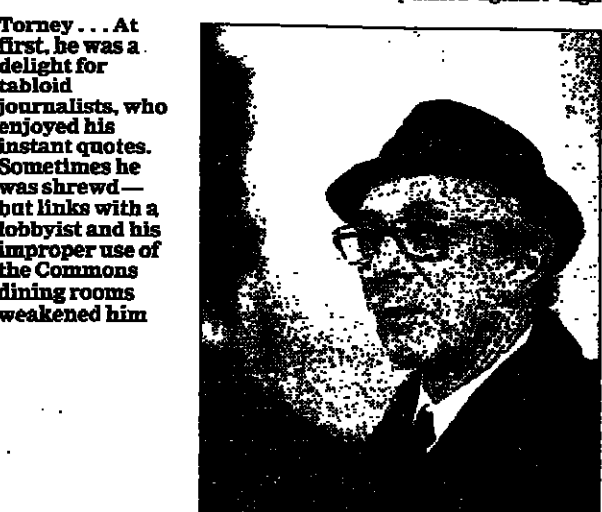
Born in Marylebone while his father was fighting in France, young Torney began work at the age of 15 as a bakery shop assistant, joining the

Labour Party at the same time. He backed into union work. As Labour's agent in Wembley North in the 1945 landslide, his candidate won the seat unexpectedly. On the strength of that, he became a fulltime area organiser in Derby for the shopworkers' union, Usdaw.

He failed to win selection at Hull North in 1965 or at Nuneaton in 1968. In 1967 he complained at his union conference that too many Labour candidates came from the professions. Finally selected, with Usdaw sponsorship, for Bradford South in 1970, he admitted: "I don't see myself as a future PM". Crudely class-conscious, in his maiden speech he complained that Tory philosophy was to transfer burdens to the poor. He also complained against high

salaries for popstars, disc jockeys and broadcasters. The perks affair destabilised Torney's career. He resigned from the Tribune Group after its members preferred the late Norman Buchanan as chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party's agriculture committee. The hard left made his reselection a target. To save his position in Bradford, which already had a large ethnic minority, he urged a quota on further immigration while unemployment and homelessness were high.

He was narrowly reselected in 1981, despite the opposition of the younger, more left-wing, Dr Barry Seal, MEP. He won by only 110 votes in June 1983, partly thanks to SDP intervention. Two years later, having suffered from an inflamed pancreas, he said he would not stand again because of the "objectionable" new reselection process and the opportunity it gave to "niggers". His second wife and his daughter by his first wife survive him.



Andrew Roth

Thomas William Torney, politician, born July 2, 1915; died October 21, 1998

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FinanceGuardian

Halifax finds surprise October hike but Nationwide sees weak demand

House price rise defies the gloom

Rupert Jones

HOUSE prices defied the economic gloom in October, rising by the largest monthly amount since late last year, according to the Halifax.

The size of the increase surprised analysts at the bank, because it comes at a time of slowdown in the housing market, plunging consumer confidence and crisis in financial markets.

The upbeat figures contrasted with a forecast from Nationwide building society, which yesterday cut its prediction for house price inflation in 1999 from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

"Buyer demand has clearly weakened, reflecting slower growth in personal incomes and the impact on confidence of mounting job losses and the threat of recession," Nationwide said. Its research shows that in only 12 months house price inflation in Lon-

don has fallen from well over 20 per cent to around 11 per cent.

The cost of the average British house rose by 1.2 per cent in October, from £73,899 to £74,764, said the Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender.

This increase means prices are 6.7 per cent higher than a year ago, yet the bank is sticking to its forecast that prices will end 1998 only 5 per cent up.

The Halifax emphasised that people should not read too much into one month's figures. Last year, prices fell in December after notching up an impressive increase the previous month, a spokesman said.

The housing market remained "healthy" with no signs of a boom or bust, he said.

"While October's increase was larger than expected, the annual rate out of the 5.6 per cent range for the first time this year, the underlying trend remains very stable with house prices con-



tinuing to rise at a moderate pace."

New regional figures from Nationwide show how London, which led the recovery in the market, has borne the brunt of the slowdown. Among the worst-hit areas have been 1997 star performers such as Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. Relatively un-

fashionable areas such as Tower Hamlets and Hackney have proved more resilient.

Elsewhere, the changes in fortunes have been less dramatic, but most areas saw a slowing in house price inflation in the third quarter, the exceptions being the West Midlands, the South-west, Wales and Scotland.

The economic outlook points to a further slowing in the market, Nationwide said. "Areas dependent on manufacturing, which is bearing the brunt of the downturn in the economy, may be particularly vulnerable. Less buoyant conditions in the City will also affect the London market."

Nationwide said it believed house prices would end this year 7 per cent up, but the estimated annual increase for 1999 at 2.5 per cent. The society has also cut its forecast for house sales next year to 1.3 million from 1.4 million.

However, it rules out a slump of the scale experienced between 1989 and 1992.



Measured by local authority, 1989-1998 (third quarter) Source: Nationwide

Notebook

London pride is wilting rapidly



Alex Brummer

NOW is not a great time to be working in the City. Not long ago, Merrill Lynch and Life, the two institutions that could do no wrong. The American broker was on a buying spree in Britain, snapping up first Smith New Court, Europe's most profitable brokerage, and then Mercury Asset Management — close to the top of the market. Merrill had become London's master of the universe.

Not far away, in Cannon Street, Life was being hailed as the new wave for the City. Every day would bring a new announcement about its domination in a particular futures market, with boasts about how many more "bund" contracts were dealt in London than in Frankfurt where they originated.

Anyone who suggested that the "open outcry" system, on which Life's success was built, was an endangered species was seen as out of touch. Life was on its way to the biggest trading floor in Europe, in Spitalfields, part of London's East End.

Now reality has arrived. The autumn market turmoil, notably Merrill Lynch's involvement with Long-Term Capital Management, has necessitated cutbacks, with 400 people losing their jobs in London as trading volumes sink.

At Life, the departures are even more extensive as the new management team of chairman Brian Williamson and chief executive Hugh Freedberg fights to preserve London's position. The Life share of the German bund contract, of which it was once so proud, has plummeted from 75 per cent to 10 per cent and overall the number of contracts written on Life is about half those traded on its European rival, which links DTB in Germany with Switzerland and the Matif in France.

Life plans to fight back by developing electronic dealing systems and its own series of alliances with network providers, other exchanges and clearing houses. Certainly, it is possible to consolidate Life's position as a crucial London market. But it also might consider following the Stock Exchange route by reaching out to its continental counterparts — while there is still a City brand worth saving.

BP bonuses

BP's takeover of Amoco is among the highest yet undertaken, so it is not surprising that the cost of completing the £32.6 billion deal will be extraordinarily high. Nevertheless, the terms which some of the directors

have extracted for themselves as the price of supporting this merger deserve closer scrutiny.

Takes John Carl, Amoco's chief financial officer, who steps aside next March. To keep him on board until then, another four months, he has graciously accepted a "retention" payment of \$1.35 million (£750,000). Having made this sacrifice, he will pick up a severance package worth three years' salary, bonus and benefits.

Other Amoco executives have taken steps to protect their positions. If Larry Fuller and Bill Lowrie, who become co-chairmen, are required to be based 50 miles from Chicago (in the case of Mr Fuller) or London (Mr Lowrie), they will be entitled to large pay-offs. There appears to be no discussion of quite why the company needs two chairmen when one part-time chairman is enough for most companies. But rationalisation at boardroom level is more difficult than it is down the line.

As for the man who is effectively the new boss of the outfit, BP chief executive Sir John Browne, his earnings could rise to £3.4 million by 2002, making him one of the highest-paid people in Britain. This, BP maintains, is modest for the boss of the world's 13th-largest company. Sir John won't even make the list of the 200 best-paid executives. Poor fellow. Perhaps there should be a collection among the 20,000 staff who are being let go, so that executives can increase their bonuses.

Sugar's game

THE effort by Alan Sugar to win approval for a share buy-back scheme at Tottenham Hotspur needs careful scrutiny by the Takeover Panel. Using his present 40 per cent stake in the club, owned through Amshold, the Spurs chairman has already purchased an 80p-per-share offer for the club from the English National Investment Company, which was at a substantial premium to the club's shares. Allowing Mr Sugar to use Spurs cash to buy back further shares would increase his leverage over the club at a cost to the rest of the shareholders who, after all, own 60 per cent of Tottenham Hotspur.

Although Spurs is a loss-maker, that will not necessarily always be the case. The arrival of George Graham as manager could signal a more successful era for Tottenham after some indifferent years. Digital television will allow clubs like Spurs to cash in on that success, as Rupert Murdoch wants to demonstrate at Manchester United.

The Takeover Panel no doubt will insist that as in exchange for allowing the share buyback to take place there must be a vote of independent shareholders only, at the November 25 annual meeting. But given the history of Mr Sugar's stock market activities, this may not be regarded as a sufficient protection of a minority which already has been deprived of a higher price for its stock.

Brown upbeat as output and orders plunge

Larry Elliott and Mark Addison

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday shrugged off industry's mounting fears of a full-blown recession as the latest snapshot of manufacturing output plunging and order books drying up over the past month.

Mr Brown insisted that Britain was much better placed to avoid a slump than it had been at the end of the Eighties.

The Chancellor dropped a clear hint that he expects the Bank of England's monetary policy committee — which holds its monthly meeting this week — to reward the Government for its anti-inflationary rigour by cutting interest rates over coming months.

"Let us not forget that in the last downturn the inflationary problems of our economy were such that even after the economy turned downward, interest rates remained at 15 per cent for a whole year and in double figures for four years."

"In contrast, the Bank of England has now been able to reduce interest rates, to respond to a changed international environment — able to respond more quickly and in a more forward-looking way than in past British economic cycles," said Mr Brown.

The Chancellor's comments coincided with the release of the purchasing managers' index from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Sup-

ply, which found that the darkening global economic outlook had a marked effect on British manufacturing in October.

Recording a seventh successive month of contraction in industry, the PMI fell sharply to its lowest level since the index was first published in January 1992, a time when Britain was in a serious recession.

Mr Brown's relatively upbeat message is underlined in a paper published by the Treasury today which says that policy reforms since Labour took office have equipped the economy to respond to changing circumstances more effectively than in the past.

With interest rates no longer in the hands of politicians, monetary policy has been tightened more quickly during the upswing between 1992 and this year, bringing inflation down to its 2.5 per cent target and giving more leeway for borrowing costs to fall as the economy turns down.

After a quarter-point reduction in October, City analysts expect a reduction of up to half a point on Thursday.

Expectations of lower rates sent the pound skidding two pence against the German mark to DM12.75 yesterday.

"By locking in low inflation and sound public finances, the economy is much better placed to respond to adverse developments," says the paper, which is titled Delivering Economic Stability: Lessons from Macroeconomic Policy Experience.

City jobs mayhem



Waving goodbye... Hundreds of Life staff will leave the struggling London derivatives market PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILITOE

Struggling Liffe to sack 600

Terry Macalister

FAULTURE to compete with Frankfurt yesterday cost more than 600 jobs at the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange which admits it now needs to seek new partners to survive.

Europe's largest derivatives market will shut all but two of its offices, halve annual expenditure to £55 million and cut 60 per cent of its staff. It plans to complete the restructuring by the end of 1999.

New chairman Brian Williamson said he plans to introduce new products and streamline regulation to win back customers to a market seen by critics as out of touch.

The 15-year-old exchange, where £264 million-worth of derivatives and other paper contracts are traded daily, has been forced into surgery because it has been losing business to the Frankfurt-based Eurex market.

The pending launch of the euro and the global economic slowdown have added to the pressure. Liffe has higher costs than some competitors

due to its use of open outcry trading rather than relying on electronic systems. High-tech equipment should start to be introduced next month and the bright jackets and hand signals of the outcry system will gradually disappear.

Mr Williamson, who took over as chairman three months ago, plans a series of global visits and talks with competitors in Frankfurt and Chicago as well as discussions with network and technology providers.

Partnerships and alliances are one way forward, but Mr Williamson said Liffe also needed to deliver an efficient trading platform alongside a range of new cost-effective products and regulatory changes.

"Liffe needs to act decisively and quickly to secure a strong foundation for the future development of the business," he said. His statement was welcomed by Liffe users and the trade organisation, British Invisibles.

Matthew Posh, chief executive of SGF Futures and Options, which is a member of both Liffe and foreign exchanges, said: "These are all very sensible changes. They will blow away a lot of cobwebs and represent substantial progress."

Mr Williamson said it would not be right to give more details about which 600 jobs would go. Staff were told yesterday morning about the restructuring and by the end of the year individuals will be told whether they have a role at the slimmer exchange.

The scale of the sackings forced Merrill to follow European regulations on consultation, which lengthened the process and allowed a handful of volunteers to replace some others in the firing line.

About 600 of the 1,000 staff at telephone company, the Cambridge company which went into administration last week, have been made redundant.

ONS ceases wages survey for statistical accuracy review

Charlotte Denery

GENERATION of vital earnings statistics has been suspended while government officials investigate their reliability.

The unprecedented decision by Tim Holt, head of the Office for National Statistics, to conduct a review of up to six weeks' duration leaves the Bank of England forced to rely on private sector surveys in order to assess wage pressures.

Last month the Guardian revealed that the Treasury was sending in an official to scrutinise the figures after the ONS revised down estimates of wage inflation earlier in the year.

"Public confidence in this series has clearly been damaged," said Mr Holt. "We have put substantial work in hand which will not be completed in time for the next scheduled release of the series."

"In the circumstances we judged it in the best interests of our users to halt publication until we can give the re-based series a clean bill of health — with defects

corrected, if any are found," said Mr Holt.

Business leaders blame the inaccurate figures for prompting the Bank of England to raise interest rates in June.

The revised figures showing subdued wage inflation have been greeted with scepticism at the Bank and the Treasury, which believe that the rapid drop in unemployment over the last 18 months must be causing pay pressures in the economy.

This month's figures would not have been ready for the monetary policy committee on Thursday, even if the series had not been suspended. Instead the Bank will have to use research from sources such as the Income Data Services, Industrial Relations Services and the Confederation of British Industry's pay data bank.

Martin Weale, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, has been asked by the Treasury to examine the pay data and the ONS has appointed its own representative to conduct checks.

Spurs takeover could follow Sugar's bigger stake move

Alex Brummer and Roger Cowie

ATAKEOVER bid for Tottenham Hotspur could be triggered as an unexpected result of yesterday's move by the club's chairman, Alan Sugar, to boost his shareholding.

The north London football club yesterday told shareholders it would seek permission at the annual meeting on November 25 to buy back some of its shares. Observers believe that Mr Sugar's goal is to capture majority control of the company, giving him the strongest possible bargaining position with any future suitors.

As a result of the buy-back move Mr Sugar's 40 per cent shareholding would rise. Under City takeover rules he would automatically be required to make a full take-

over offer for the company. The Spurs chairman has applied to the Takeover Panel for a waiver of this requirement.

It is understood that the panel is insisting that the club ensures that only independent shareholders vote on the share buyback at the annual meeting, and that they have access to independent financial advice other than Mr Sugar's investment bankers and lawyers.

The club's advisers are also under pressure from the panel to disclose all relevant information, including any other possible offers for their shares. That could include any offer which investment vehicle ENIC has made or now wishes to make.

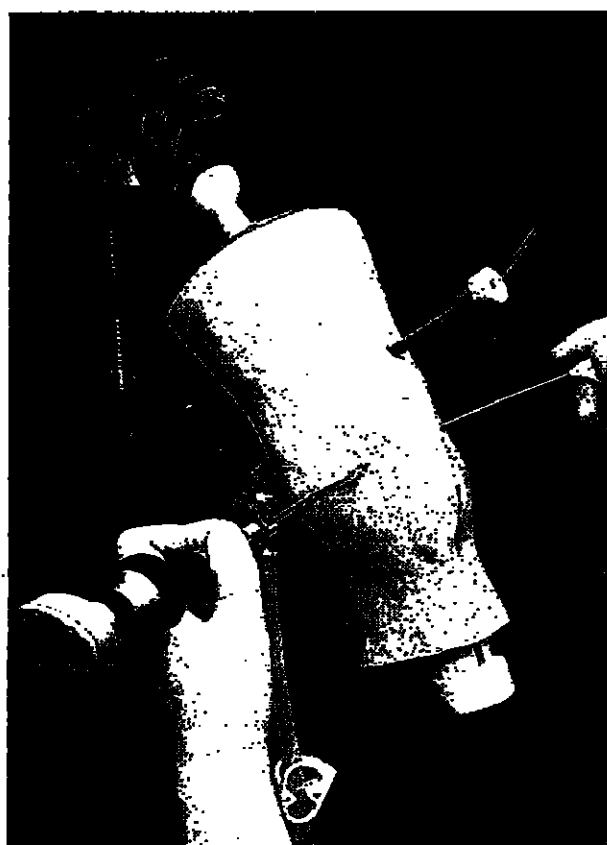
ENIC, which has a stake in Glasgow Rangers and several other European clubs, has been courting Mr Sugar since August.

TOURIST RATES — BANK BELLS

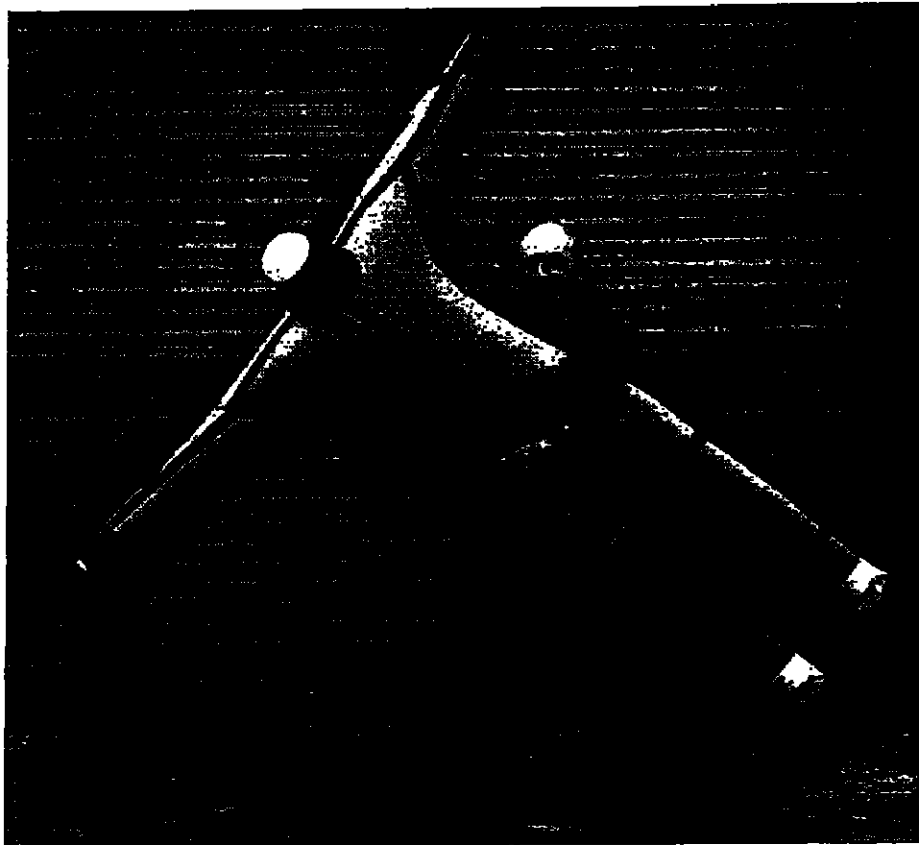
Australia 2.809	Germany 2.5783	Malaysia 6.38	Singapore 2.56
Austria 18.70	Greece 454.45	Mexico 0.8097	South Africa 1.12
Belgium 55.23	Hong Kong 12.61	Netherlands 3.0102	Spain 225.38
Canada 2.518	India 70.938	Norway 11.93	Sweden 12.64
Cyprus 0.79	Ireland 1.0861	Portugal 272.27	Switzerland 2.18
Denmark 10.23	Israel 7.16	Saudi Arabia 6.17	Turkey 461.510
Finland 8.22	Italy 2.661	USA 1.6278	
France 8.9451			

Supplied by Reuters (excluding rupee, shahel and monetary)

Celebrating innovation



Selected... A simulated human knee to rehearse keyhole surgery, the electricity-conducting fabric Gortex, an electric violin and (below) a medicine-dispenser for young animals



Winning designs to celebrate the Millennium

David Gow
Industrial Editor

BEASTS of the field are set for a touch of luxury. A self-draining waterbed for cows, taking away the customary agony for ruminants awaiting milking on dirty, straw-covered concrete floors, was one of 231 Millennium products chosen yesterday to celebrate British indus-

try at its most innovative and creative.

A fellow-farmer said of the waterbeds developed by Alan Bristow of Cranleigh, Surrey: "The cows say they like them. I look at their faces and can tell they are happy and comfortable."

Mr Bristow, who promises reduced vet bills and greater hygiene in cow stalls, has sold 5,000 of the £90 beds in the last six months, mainly to custom-

ers in the European Union, where British beef is still banned.

The waterbed joined an outdoor light that uses solar power instead of mains electricity, pencils made out of plastic, recycled vending cups and a new ballot box designed for proportional representation in the second tranche of products chosen by the Design Council to represent the best of British in the Millennium Dome.

Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary, urged the whole of British business to embrace "innovation, innovation, innovation" in order to survive in the next century, the era of the so-called knowledge-driven economy.

He clutched a purple, electric five-string violin, built by Bridge Musical In-

struments, a firm of two directors and two craftsmen based in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, set up with the aid of a £20,000 DTI grant.

The firm makes 15 instruments a month and customers for its violins, cellos and double-basses include the Levellers and the Riverdance show.

While Mr Mandelson urged British firms to be more ambitious, Bridge director Paul Bridgewater said: "It's just a question of hanging on in there and sticking at it. Because you are breaking new ground, it can be hard going."

His resource and those of fellow-director Ceris Jones are dwarfed by those of fellow-winners British Aerospace. It won one of its three prizes for a gyroscope which can be fitted to car braking systems.



Dance to Mandelson's synthesis

Commentary/ Labour's mood music made delegates purr, write **Larry Elliott and David Gow**

TIMES have changed. Only two months ago you could have heard a pita drop when Peter Mandelson spoke to the TUC in Blackpool. There were hisses from the back rows of the audience in the Winter Gardens ballroom as the Trade and Industry Secretary explained the realities of life under New Labour.

But in Birmingham yesterday it was a different story. The Confederation of British Industry purred with delight as Mr Mandelson hit all the right buttons. The applause for a speech that was immea-

surably more confident than the hesitant address at the Labour conference a month ago was warm and genuine. A dozen years ago it would have been unthinkable for one of Labour's heavy hitters to be welcomed into the inner sanctum of big business. At the 1986 conference, the then opposition trade and industry spokesman, John Smith, was kept to the fringes while Cabinet ministers revelled in the high noon of Thatcherism.

Yesterday it was the arch-Thatcherite John Redwood who was the outsider at the CBI. True, he was given a platform, but his speech extol-

ling the virtues of a free enterprise Europe unshackled from Brussels control was met with chilly indifference.

Clearly, the tectonic plates are shifting. The unions are concerned that Mr Mandelson is preparing to water down the Fairness at Work White Paper, while the CBI is confident that the Government will listen to its concerns about unlimited compensation for unfair dismissal, although still anxious about automatic recognition.

Three separate factors lie behind Labour's love-in with business. The first is that the Government has shifted to a more pro-business stance. As Mr Mandelson said yesterday, sixties-style interventionism has been ditched in favour of trying to make markets work better. Moreover, neither he nor Tony Blair

sees Labour as representing a particular class interest.

"This Government is determined to get us and them" will never return. And if we are to seize the opportunities of the knowledge-driven economy it never must," said Mr Mandelson.

The CBI loves this sort of talk. Sir Clive Thompson, the president of the employers' organisation and highly-paid boss of Rentokil, says that Labour is now the sort of centre-right party for which he could consider voting.

From the CBI's super-smooth director-general, Adair Turner, this would barely raise a flicker of interest, but Sir Clive is a man of robust right-wing views. At the CBI's annual dinner this year, he compared curbs on unions with pest control — much to the anger of TUC general secretary John Monks, who was sitting at the same top table.

The second reason for the mood of intimacy is that the CBI, notwithstanding Sir Clive's views, was never fully part of the Thatcher project. Throughout the 1980s, Centre Point was a bastion for those who secretly remained wedded to corporatism and higher public spending on the human and physical infrastructure — and who recoiled from monetarism's excesses.

Finally, there is Europe, where the bulk of the CBI's big business membership is based. The prospect of Britain's entry into the single currency, and the sooner the better, with a date for entry fixed now.

The Government is doing its best to exploit this tension.

In 1986 John Smith kept to the fringes as Tories revelled in the high noon of Thatcherism

As Mr Mandelson said yesterday: "It is economic lunacy, for the sake of Eurosceptic ideology, to marginalise British business on the sidelines of what should be its home market, as official Conservative policy on the single currency threatens to do."

Will this new spirit of co-operation last? The Government hopes so. Its mantra is that only business can deliver prosperity and jobs and, as Mr Mandelson put it yesterday: "Government must know when to act, and when to keep out of the way."

"I am clear about my task. It was spelled out by the Prime Minister in a personal

minute when I was appointed. 'Your job', he said, 'is to act as a vocal and tenacious advocate of the needs of wealth creation and business in Whitehall and with other public agencies'."

But it was not only Sir Clive who sounded a warning note with his attack on Labour's propensity for regulation. Speaker after speaker pointed to the inherent contradiction between Mr Mandelson encouraging entrepreneurship and yet heaping more red tape on business.

The big imponderable is the down-turn, which now seems inevitable. A period of higher unemployment and rising business failures would put the relationship between government and industry under severe pressure.

In those circumstances, calls from corporate Britain for the Government to "let business get on with the job" would be replaced by an insistence to "act now".

Political commentators say that deep down the Labour Party has not changed as much as Mr Mandelson would like to think. The same applies to the CBI. British productivity may lag 30 per cent behind that in France and Germany, but when it comes to special pleading and whingeing, British business is in a class of its own.

Soft line on bankruptcy angers Whitehall

Dan Atkinson

A WHITEHALL battle was looming last night over plans by Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson to remove the privileged status of the Inland Revenue and Customs in cases of company bankruptcy.

The Treasury is believed to be unhappy at the idea of making the taxman queue up with ordinary creditors.

Mr Mandelson told the Confederation of British Industry conference at Birmingham yesterday that he was looking at the position of the Crown in insolvency law with a view to helping bankrupt business chiefs get back on their feet.

The review puts the Department of Trade and Industry in conflict not only with the Treasury but also the National Audit Office, the Government's financial watchdog, which is urging the Treasury to be more aggressive in the pursuit of debts owed by insolvent companies and individuals.

Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise often have been criticised, however, for pushing into bankruptcy firms which would otherwise have survived. One source said that in company bankruptcies tax officials seemed to believe that they have a "punitive role to play".

Another source said there was significant opposition from the Treasury to Mr Mandelson's plans, adding: "He has got a bit of a fight on his hands."

Mr Mandelson yesterday

less difficult for entrepreneurs to bounce back from a business failure.

He told the conference that Labour had no "guilt-ridden hang-ups" about people making themselves rich as a result of genuine entrepreneurial success.

"We want a society that celebrates and values its business heroes as much as it does its pop stars and footballers. So we must remove the barriers to enterprise in this country, reward risk-taking and encourage innovation and creativity."

"In the US some of the most successful entrepreneurs are those who have failed once or twice. Banks and society as a whole don't write people off as failures. They see them as people who have learned; people who are worth backing again. That is why the Government needs to carry out two reviews: one looking at corporate rescue procedures, including the position of the Crown as a creditor, and the second looking at whether the law can be changed to reduce the stigma of financial failure."

Mr Mandelson added: "This is not a rogue's charter."

The second review may seek to expand the role played by "individual voluntary arrangements", in which, as an alternative to bankruptcy, insolvent people agree to work off their debt. Anecdotal evidence inside the insolvency profession suggests that people in such an arrangement, in contrast to those who are bankrupted, say far less likely to suffer the knock on problems of divorce, loss of home, loss of the ability to work, and suicide.

No Ford plant safe says chief

David Gow
Industrial Editor

SIR Alex Trotman, the chairman of Ford, yesterday gave a clear warning that the US car company's 21 British plants are vulnerable to closure in the face of poor productivity and global overcapacity in the motor industry.

He has given factories like Dagenham, already suffering from production cuts, to the end of next year to close a productivity gap of 20 per cent with Ford's best-performing non-British plants.

His unmistakable message, given on the fringes of the CBI conference, was that job cuts would take place among Ford's 28,000-strong workforce in the UK.

It came as he told the CBI that, in the light of a "global dogfight" in the motor industry, a wave of mergers, acquisitions and outright failures would, within 10 or 20 years, reduce the current 40 car firms in the world to just six — two each in the US, Europe and Japan.

He said global overcapacity amounted to 80 modern assembly plants sitting idle. By 2002 surplus capacity would rise to 22 million cars. Ford has drawn up what Sir

Alex called a "very detailed, competitive, constructive plan" to cut costs and raise productivity.

"There is a risk in every factory we have in the world if it does not match up to competitive standards," he said. "I would not pick on Dagenham or Halewood (home of the new baby Jaguar). All of our facilities have to be globally competitive."

Ford has already cut costs by nearly \$5 billion (£3 billion) in the past two years. The company has cut \$1.9 billion from its expenses in the first nine months of this year against a 1998 target of just \$1 billion.

But Sir Alex said that this drive would continue, with management — not just labour productivity — under scrutiny. "It would be wrong to point the finger at the man on the shopfloor and say it's all up to him."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the engineering union, said: "This would be disastrous for jobs in Britain. It will send shock waves down the production lines."

Sir Alex's call for greater competitiveness won backing from Robert Ayling, British Airways' chief executive, who denounced "closet protectionism" in Europe's airline industry.

Midland Private Banking

Interest rates for Midland Private Banking customers

With effect from 2 November 1998

	Gross %	Previous Gross %	Net %	Previous Net %
Private Banking Current Account (1)				
Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.80
£2,000+	1.49	1.49	1.19	1.19
£10,000+	3.21	3.21	2.56	2.56
£50,000+	3.45	3.45	2.76	2.76
Private Banking Savings Account (1)				
(Monthly interest option)				
Up to £5,000	6.08	6.32	4.96	5.05
£5,000+	6.08	6.41	4.96	5.12
£10,000+	6.27	6.51	5.01	5.20
£25,000+	6.27	6.60	5.01	5.28
£50,000+	6.37	6.70	5.09	5.36
£100,000+	6.65	6.79	5.32	5.43
Private Banking Savings Account (1)				
(Annual interest option)				
Up to £5,000	6.25	6.50	5.00	5.20
£5,000+	6.25	6.60	5.00	5.28
£10,000+	6.45	6.70	5.16	5.36
£25,000+	6.45	6.80	5.16	5.44
£50,000+	6.55	6.90	5.24	5.52
£100,000+	6.85	7.00	5.48	5.60
Investment Management				
Cash held on the Capital Account within our Investment Management Service will earn interest at the following rates:				
Up to £5,000	1.50	1.50	1.20	1.20
£5,000+	6.11	6.45	4.88	5.16
£10,000+	6.30	6.54	5.04	5.23
£25,000+	6.30	6.64	5.04	5.31
£50,000+	6.40	6.73	5.12	5.38
£100,000+	6.69	6.85	5.35	5.46

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Net: the rate after the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings accounts, currently 20%. Higher rate tax payers will have an additional liability.

(1) This product is no longer available to new customers.

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Member FSCS Group

The French way with moaners

CBI sketch

Dan Atkinson

FOR those who have suffered innumerable CBI get-togethers, one name will be forever remembered: not Gordon Brown, not even Germany's Gerhard Schröder, but Ernest Antoine Seilliere.

Who? Mr Seilliere is president of the Patronat, the French CBI. He is also the man who told Britain's business to stop moaning and count their blessings.

Someone had to. It was clear that, for all the talk of the "productivity gap" between Britain and every-body else, there remained one field in which Britain's economy operated at peak efficiency: the manufacture of ever-more baroque and oxymoronic excuses for the abject mediocrity of British industry.

There is the strong pound, high interest rates, the failure to sign up for the single currency, excessive government intervention, inadequate government intervention, an "anti-enterprise culture", and so on.

Mr Seilliere, representing an economy about one fifth bigger than ours with about the same population, was having none of it. He listed just a few of the burdens under which the Patronat's membership struggles — a compulsory 35-hour week, a huge budget deficit, uncontrolled health spending.

Under questioning, he said: "It's true that interest rates are high here (in Britain), but social regulation is lighter; you don't have the degree of taxation on some aspects of business and you don't have to defend your currency. It's difficult to have everything."

Mr Seilliere's grasp of British political realities was not always up to his clear-eyed view of our moaning businessmen, as when he talked of "entrepreneurial problems" settled by a governmental team which is predominantly socialist.

When comparing Britain with France, where Communists are in government committed to "social war" on industry bosses, and even schoolchildren are on strike, he could not resist being patronising. "I dare say you too must have your day-to-day difficulties."

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Clarke on the right course

David Davies in Jerez salutes player who upstaged Monty

DARREN Clarke, with one of the year's most impressive displays, completely upstaged Colin Montgomerie and Lee Westwood in the season-ending classic, the Volvo Masters, at Montecastillo, on Sunday. The 31-year-old Scot, a native of Glasgow, propelled him past all the other contenders: it won him a total of £286,000 and second place in the Volvo rankings.

Best of all, though, it gave him a chance to fulfil his dream of winning the "promising" for far too long. He has been in contention so often and finished second or worse so

often that questions have arisen about his temperament. He has, for instance, finished second three times in 1988 and while that makes a lot of money on the European Tour these days, it is a dubious distinction to have against your name. Before you know where you are, your fellow professionals start calling you "Avis".

But the circumstances facing Clarke on Sunday were, in European terms, as tough as they come. He was in contention, but the people he was trying to defeat were the best players in Europe and the very people who had been beating him all year. The fact that Clarke saw them off with such assured display of accurate striking, rather than with a freak round of putting, may catapult him into the kind of world status that his golf has long hinted at.



Pleased as punch... Darren Clarke celebrates his brilliant victory at the Volvo Masters

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW REDINGTON

major" insisted that it did not really matter until the moment that he won one. To watch Montgomerie hit shots during one of his better rounds is to wonder how on earth he has reached the age of 35 without having secured at least one major. But then something will catch his eye — a plastic bag flapping, a camera-toting spectator, a shadow stretching on the teeing ground — and he is immediately into his marshalling mode. "Put that bag/camera away. Step away from the tee. Keep quiet. Don't breathe." At such moments of non-concentration on the job in hand you wonder how he ever wins anything, let alone a major.

There was one such outburst during the Volvo Masters, when he cleared the 18th tee of spectators because of shadows. He was quite right in his way,

but no other player would have reacted in the irritable, "how-dare-you" fashion as did Monty. Ernie Els, his playing partner, who probably had not even noticed the sun was shining, looked on in complete astonishment.

Westwood won two of his events in the week before the championship, New Orleans before the Masters and Loch Lomond before the Open, and perhaps as a consequence did not contend in either of those majors. Some players rest the week before a major, not necessarily for the sake of the rest, but because they fear getting in contention and having to try to win. That, at any level, can exhaust the mental reserves. Sandy Lyle managed to win the Greater Greensboro Open the week before winning the Masters in 1988, but at the time he was the best player in the world, which Westwood is not, yet.

Exeter (N.H.) with form guide

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Teaching, right-handed circuit of 2m with 300yds run-in. Underlying, with a home straight of 100-100.

1.50 WILLIAM HILL CREDIT NOVICE HURDLE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

2.20 WILLIAM HILL DEBIT CARD NOVICE HURDLE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

2.50 WILLIAM HILL BALDWIN CUP HURDLE CHASE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

3.20 WILLIAM HILL LUCKY CHOICE HURDLE CHASE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Warwick National Hunt programme

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.10 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

1.10 POPPY APPLE JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE SYO	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Catterick Jackpot card

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.30 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

2.00 THOMAS DARLEY NURSERY HURDLE 2YO	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

2.30 HANDELTON MAIDEN STAKES	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

3.00 495'S HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE)	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Results	PLUMPTON
1.30 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

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2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

1.10 POPPY APPLE JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE SYO	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

3.30 BOROUGHBRIDGE CLAIMING STAKES	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

4.00 OLIVER CROMWELL HURDLE	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

4.00 OLIVER CROMWELL HURDLE	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

4.00 OLIVER CROMWELL HURDLE	1m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Results	PLUMPTON
1.30 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Punters kept in dark over disputes panel

Graham Rock

A NEW service to arbitrate on betting disputes between bookmakers and punters was launched yesterday, but stumbled at the start.

The betting trade associations have been informed of the identity of the members sitting on the Independent Betting Arbitration Service, but the names have not been made public, and will not be known to punters seeking redress.

In the summer, the British Horseracing Board suggested that the Levy Board set up an independent organisation to settle disputes between betting parties, but the request was rescinded, pending an evaluation of the new service. IBAS is being managed by the Mirror Group, publishers of the Racing Post, and supported by Satellite Information Services, which is part-owned by bookmakers.

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
1.10 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

1.40 FRANCIS GRAVES LTD HURDLE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

2.10 STAKES CASINO NOVICE HURDLE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

2.40 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY HURDLE CHASE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

3.10 FLANDERS' FIELDS CLAIMING HURDLE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

3.40 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NOVICE CHASE	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

4.10 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK NATIONAL HUNT FLAT	2m 11 £22,800 (17 declared)
1.50 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Results	PLUMPTON
1.30 Estabrook Agent	Anthony Black (top)
2.20 Westwood	Pride of Penzance
2.50 Direct Blaise	Or Royal
3.10 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
3.50 Springdale	Penzance Flyer
4.20 Aerial	Penzance Flyer

Uefa Cup: second round, second leg

Valencia (0) v Liverpool (0)

Redknapp ready for another return

Ian Ross in Valencia on Liverpool's likely line-up for a game in which they need a goal

LIVERPOOL'S season has already yielded so many contradictory signals that it is becoming difficult to denounce those who claim that a 36-hour sojourn in balmy Spain may mark the start of a winter of discontent.

Certainly if a team assembled at such expense should be forced out by Valencia, who have recovered from a poor start in the Spanish League to climb into sixth place, there will be hell to pay.

But, as ever, the question remains, precisely who will pay for the indiscretions of a Liverpool team who seem to shudder whenever someone in high office seeks to preach the virtues of consistency?

Comfortable wins over Nottingham Forest and Fulham hinted at better times, yet on Saturday a bemused audience looked on incredulously as Leicester drove a Cottree and horses through the idea that normal service had finally resumed.

Looking on the bright side has always come naturally to Liverpool managers and the club's joint stewards, Gerard Houllier and Roy Evans, seem

to believe that a test of character will be negotiated here tonight.

The belief, or perhaps the feeling, is that one goal might be sufficient, if only for an overall victory on the away-goals rule. Liverpool's performance in the goalless first leg at Anfield was abject; it is inconceivable they will play as poorly a second time.

Valencia were very fortunate two weeks ago, inasmuch as Houllier and Evans opted to rest Michael Owen. It was a dreadful miscalculation and it will not be repeated tonight.

Owen will play alongside Robbie Fowler, who is recalled in place of Karhelaz Riedle, who damaged a groin muscle at Leicester. The anticipated return of Jamie Redknapp after injury will help stiffen a midfield which has proved to be more belligerent than creative in recent weeks.

"The important thing was that we did not concede a goal in the first game," said Evans. "This tie is still very much alive but we will need to improve on our passing because it just wasn't good enough on Saturday."

Liverpool's fate will certainly depend on the ability of a defence that has been polished up appreciably since the vastly experienced but snail-like Steve Staunton was moved from full-back to centre-back.

But Valencia have scored nine goals in their last two league games, performing most impressively in the 4-1 win at Real Zaragoza at the weekend. "I'm on a sweet run of form at the moment, but then again, so is the whole team," said Adrian Ilie, the Romania and Valencia striker who with his partner Claudio Lopez has scored five of nine. "We've been playing so well lately and we just need to demonstrate that sort of form against Liverpool."

Worryingly for Liverpool there is the "James Factor". Ironically it was during the 5-1 drubbing of Forest last Saturday week that David James seemingly sought to remind his detractors why his collection of England caps is unlikely to be doubled to two.

In between watching Owen score four times, James flapped at everything and a repeat performance tonight will strengthen the belief that Liverpool have not had a decent last line of defence since Bruce Grobbelaar left.



Going places... Michael Owen pushes through the waiting throng yesterday at Valencia's airport. PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSKILL

Leeds United (0) v Roma (1)

O'Leary will miss Radebe

Michael Walker

IN ROME a fortnight ago Leeds United managed partly to overcome off-the-field disruption brought about by Martin O'Leary's vacillating and David O'Leary's touchline ban to record the most impressive 1-0 defeat and it looks as though they will have to do the difficult way again in tonight's return at Elland Road, although this time the hurdles are on the pitch.

O'Leary, since appointed manager, can resume his dug-out seat and may need to vocalise as he tries to reorganise a Leeds team without the captain Lucas Radebe.

The South African has been a growing influence and had an immense game in Rome albeit with one blip: the misplaced challenge that alerted Marco Delvecchio to score the goal which divides the sides.

But Radebe damaged knee ligaments in the 2-2 draw at Derby on Saturday and yesterday O'Leary confirmed Radebe would be unavailable tonight. "Losing Lucas is a big, big blow for us," said O'Leary. "He is a fantastic defender and we always took a better team when he is there."

At least O'Leary has options on cover for Radebe, being able to permit any combination from Danny Granville, Ian Harte, Martin Hiden,

David Wetherall and the 18-year-old Jonathan Woodgate to play alongside Robert Molenar. Gunnar Halle is another defender to consider although the Norwegian may occupy a more advanced role, the one held by Bruno Ribeiro until his sending-off in the first leg.

Aiding on the left side of midfield from both Halle and Ribeiro struck the Roma woodwork and Ribeiro's automatic suspension provides O'Leary with further shuffling. Another change from Rome will see Paul Robinson continue to deputise for the injured Nigel Martyn. Having chosen the 18-year-old Stephen McPhail to play in central midfield in Rome, Robinson has become the third teenager O'Leary has shown no fear in selecting.

His opposite number Zdenek Zeman, by contrast, has an experienced, solid squad to pick from with the excellent 22-year-old captain Francesco Totti likely to be Roma's youngest player. Totti is also Roma's key man — he scored twice on Saturday in the 4-0 victory over Udinese that keeps Roma third in Serie A — and Leeds' ability to interrupt his link with Delvecchio will be crucial to the outcome.

At the Leeds cause is the suspension of Luigi Di Biagio, essential to the durability of the Italians' midfield.

Aston Villa (1) v Celta Vigo (0)

Rocky road to Dublin via Vigo

Paul Weaver

JOHN GREGORY is confident that Aston Villa will play alongside their probable position as the Premier League's pacesetter by signing Dion Dublin in a compromise deal with Coventry.

Gregory, who will be attempting to guide Villa into the Uefa Cup third round at the expense of the Spanish club Celta Vigo tonight, believes that a Dublin deal can be struck between the £5 million he has offered and the £8.75 million asking price.

"I'm sure some sort of compromise can be reached," he said. "It is really down to the two chairmen and club officials to sort it out. I've done everything I can. We are still not allowed to talk to Dion."

The clause in his contract seems very clear, so why put £5 million in there if you mean £8.75 million? As far as we understand it, the contract says that if someone offers £5 million then the player has the right to accept it.

Mark Bosnich, the first-choice goalkeeper, has a shoulder injury and is the only player unfit for the match at Villa Park, although Paul Merson and Steve Watson are again ineligible. The midfield pair Alan Thompson and Ian Taylor, who missed the game in Spain a fortnight ago through suspension, are set to return.

Gregory said: "We are taking nothing for granted. A clean sheet is the most important thing for us. They were very good out there and proved why they are doing so well in the Spanish League."

"Vigo have not been one of the major forces in Spanish football and they are a bit like us this season in being something of a surprise packet."

What we achieved over there helped in making people sit up and take notice."

Gregory, who recently signed a new contract worth £2 million over the next five years, has not ruled out a managerial move to Europe.

"As far as I'm concerned a four-year deal means exactly that," he said. "If anyone breaks the contract it will be Aston Villa, not me. I cannot imagine a better job in this country."

"I cannot envisage moving to even Manchester United or Arsenal. My aim is to fight Alex Ferguson, who is the top man, for honours over the next four years. Then, maybe, I would like to go abroad."

"I have already spoken to Terry Venables and Howard Kendall about their experience in Europe and I have given the matter a lot of thought. Not too many Englishmen have been successful in places like Germany, Spain or France. Hopefully, when I have achieved something with Villa, that will be the next step."

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Overseas Football

Acid attack overshadows end of Russian season

Chris Taylor

RUSSIA'S league wound up for the winter on Friday but the major championship issues were overshadowed by a horrific acid attack on the league's top scorer and his daughter.

The two-year-old daughter of Rotor Volgograd's Oleg Veretennikov, is in critical condition after an unknown assailant threw sulphuric acid in her face last Thursday. Veretennikov, himself was burned on the hand and missed Rotor's victory over Torpedo Moscow.

Local police suggested a personal vendetta by a fan as a possible motive. A week earlier 1,500 fans had gone on the rampage in Moscow's Arbat shopping district, smashing cars and windows to celebrate Spartak's retention of the championship. Police made dozens of arrests.

Spartak have now won six of the seven Russian championships since the break-up of the Soviet Union. CSKA Moscow's record-breaking 12-match winning streak ensured a second-place finish.

Despite losing their final meaningless domestic fixture, Spartak are one of three teams tied at the top on six points in the Champions League group C. Today they entertain Internazionale, also on six points but who go into the game on the back of three straight defeats in the Italian league.

Victory for Spartak could end Gigi Simoni's tenure as Inter's coach. And with Russia still reeling from the ruble crisis, a Uefa win bonus would be particularly welcome.

The national team's disastrous start to the Euro 2000 qualification campaign means its remaining fixtures are seen as little more than a financial liability.

"The loss of all of our Euro 2000 matches to Ukraine, France and Iceland made the rest of our qualifiers meaningless," the president of Russian Football Union, Vyacheslav Koloskov, said. "We will only lose money by playing them. No one is interested in the outcome any longer."

The prime minister, Yevgeny Primakov, has promised more government help for the game but Mr Koloskov denied Russian football in general was in crisis. "We have a crisis only in our national team, but that is because we simply don't have enough quality players," he said.

This view cuts little ice with Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, 36, the flamboyant head of the International Chess Federation (Fide) and president of the autonomous Russian republic of Kalmykia, who has announced his intention to challenge for Koloskov's job next month.

"I'm simply ashamed of our football," he said. "How can you not find 11 good players in the country of 150 million people?"

Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
1 Arsenal v Everton
2 Aston Villa v Tottenham
3 Blackburn v Coventry
4 Charlton v Leicester
5 Liverpool v Derby
6 Middlesbrough v Wimbledon
7 Southampton v Middlesbrough

NATIONAL LEAGUE
1 Bury v Wolves
2 Barnet v Swindon
3 Cambridge v Peterborough
4 Exeter v Shrewsbury
5 Grimsby v Bolton
6 Luton v Tranmere
7 Notts Forest v Oxford

SECOND DIVISION
1 Chesterfield v Lincoln
2 Fulham v Bristol Rovers
3 Gillingham v Wigan
4 Northampton v Wycombe
5 Peterborough v Barnet
6 Reading v Southend

Overmars is latest Arsenal striking loss

ARSENAL'S hopes of getting a result in Kiev tomorrow have been hit by the withdrawal of one of their most potent attacking players.

Even the coach Josep Guardiola recognised this potentially devastating blow when he said his team should have won nearly all of the games they have drawn or lost this season.

But he refused to blame the striker Harald Brattbakk despite the overwhelming recent evidence that, in Bob Hope's peerless phrase, he could not hit the ocean from a rowing boat.

Venglos's defence of the Norwegian is not surprising, given the injuries and suspensions which have deprived Arsenal of their first-team regulars.

Craig Burley, Tom Boyd, Mark Rieper, Enrico Annunzi, Regi Blinker and Morten Wieghorst are all at home.

There is also a doubt over Sunday for the first time in a week. On arrival the central defender said: "I think I'll make it all right."

Results

FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Premier Division. Tottenham v Manchester City 1-0. Arsenal v Chelsea 1-0.

FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Premier Division. Tottenham v Manchester City 1-0. Arsenal v Chelsea 1-0.

FOOTBALL
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Chess

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Orissa of Mr. Sp.) Round Seven. England's R. S. Jones 2-0. N. P. S. Jones 2-0. N. P. S. Jones 2-0.

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American Football

NFL ATLANTA 37 St. Louis 16. Baltimore 18 Jacksonville 30 Miami 24. Carolina 31 New Orleans 17. Cincinnati 20 Denver 17 Detroit 15 Arizona 17. Indianapolis 16 New England 21 Pittsburgh 31 Tampa Bay 41 Tampa Bay 37 Minnesota 24. Washington 22 Seattle 24 Oakland 24. Oakland 22 Seattle 24 Oakland 24. Oakland 22 Seattle 24 Oakland 24.

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Fixtures

Football
UEFA Cup: Second round, second leg. Aston Villa (1) v Celta Vigo (0) (7.45); FC Zurich (1) v Celtic (1) (7.15); Lazio (0) v AS Roma (1) (8.00); Valencia (0) v Liverpool (0) (8.30).

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Sport in brief

Sailing
Josh Hall on Garmore Investment Managers was the fourth boat to finish the first leg of the Around Alone race, writes Bob Fisher. The British skipper crossed the Cape Town finishing line yesterday afternoon, 50 hours behind the leg winner Mike Golding.

Tennis
John Newcombe and Tony Roche were retained as Australia's Davis Cup captain and coach yesterday despite a lacklustre two-year reign which has seen the team suffer defeats by Hungary and Zimbabwe. Their tenure has also been marred by a long-running dispute with Mark Philippoussis, who has only recently returned to the fold.

Rugby Union
SUSSEX CUP: Second round. Gillingham v Cardiff.

Ice Hockey
SUSSEX LEAGUE: London v Newcastle.

Cricket
CRICKET: Essex v Gloucestershire. Essex won by 10 runs.

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Team talk

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Aston Villa	61	Everton	73	Oxford	14
Barnet	62	Fulham	87	QPR	88
Blackburn	63	Grimsby	15	Rangers	87
Bolton	64	Hudd. Town	74	Reading	89
Bristol City	65	Leeds United	75	Sheff. United	88
Bury	66	Leeds United	76	Sheff. Wed.	89
Cardiff	67	Liverpool	77	Southampton	90
Charlton	68	Man. City	78	Spurs	91
Chelsea	69	Man. United	80	Stoke City	92
Coventry City	70	Middlesbrough	81	Sunderland	93
Croydon Palace	71	Milwall	82	Watford	94
Crow	72	Newcastle Utd	83	West Ham	94
		Norwich City	84	Wolves	95

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TheGuardian INTERACTIVE

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Darren Clarke on an all-time high, page 13
Liverpool's sternest test, page 14

England's bowlers toil in Perth, page 15
Rugby faces southern backlash, page 15

SportsGuardian

Resilient Charlton refuse to lie down again

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 2 Charlton Athletic 2

Hunt sabotage forces Spurs to share spoils

David Lacey at White Hart Lane sees controversial equaliser deny hosts victory

CHARLTON Athletic forced their way back into last night's match at White Hart Lane in controversial fashion after seeing their lead wiped out by the two goals Tottenham scored in seven minutes early in the second half.

With 17 minutes remaining, Spurs expected to be awarded a free-kick when Steve Jones, one of the Charlton substitutes, forced his way bodily past Justin Edinburgh on the right, but the referee, Mike Reed, waved play on, and from Jones's centre Andy Hunt brought the scores level with his second goal of the game.

Tottenham were seeking their most important breakthrough last night since the arrival of George Graham as manager, knowing that a win would take them into fifth place, their highest position for 2½ years.

Not that this appeared a simple exercise against a Charlton side fortified by the knowledge that they have taken points from draws at Arsenal and Liverpool. Spurs, moreover, were without the suspended David Ginola as well as Les Ferdinand and Steven Iversen, both unfit.

Tottenham's shortage of attackers meant that Chris Armstrong played a lonely trade up front, while Ruel Fox and Andy Sinton tried to support him from the flanks. Darren Anderton's vision was es-

pecially important and in only the second minute his sharply swerving free-kick was pushed wide of the near post by Sasa Ilic.

Charlton spent the early part of the match defending in depth, but Spurs continued to bring the best out of Ilic. Two minutes past the quarter-hour Sol Campbell rose to meet Anderton's corner, only to see his header blocked by the Charlton goalkeeper before the ball was cleared by Mark Kinsella.

Midway through the first half a job forward from Kinsella should have brought Charlton a goal against the run of play. John Scales misjudged the ball's flight and allowed it to drop the feet of Chris Powell, who with only Espen Baardson to beat lifted his shot over the bar.

The next time Charlton sighted goal they scored just past the half-hour. It was a well-worked move which preyed on lingering frailties in the middle of Tottenham's defence. Carl Tiler played the ball to Clive Mendonca who laid it off awkwardly to Paul Mortimer. Mortimer's chested return pass surprised Spurs and allowed Mendonca to slip through a large gap.

Mendonca, so prolific when Charlton won promotion last season, has not scored for six weeks and did not do so now, but after Campbell had deflected his shot beyond Baard-

son on to the far post Hunt tapped in the rebound.

Charlton's chances of holding their lead were not helped by the injury which forced Richard Rufus, the best of their three centre-backs, out of the game shortly before half-time.

In the event the second half was only four minutes old when Anderton's inspiration helped produce the equaliser. After Stephen Carr and Fox had started to turn Charlton's defence on the right Anderton threaded a perfectly weighted pass into the path of the overlapping Carr, whose low centre was turned past Ilic by Alan Nielsen.

Three minutes later a similar move nearly gave Spurs the lead. Again Anderton found Carr and again the cross was low and true, but this time Eddie Youds managed to turn the ball inches past his own near post.

Not that Charlton remained relieved for long. After 56 minutes Anderton gave Sinton a chance to release Justin Edinburgh on the left. The full-back's cross from the by-line should have been intercepted, but Tiler allowed the ball to reach the far post, where Chris Armstrong scored his first league of the season with a diving header.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-2-2): Baardson; Carr, Scales, Campbell, Edinburgh, Fox (Allen, 85min), Anderton, Calderwood, Nielsen, Sinton (Clemence, 88); Armstrong.
Charlton (3-5-2): Ilic; Rufus (Robinson, 44), Scales, Tiler, Kinsella, Redfern, Mortimer (G Jones, 80), Powell, Hunt, Mendonca.
Referee: M Reed (Birmingham).

Sugar share deal, page 11



Collision course... Charlton's Chris Powell rattles Stephen Carr's suspension at White Hart Lane last night

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW REDINGTON



Jim White

Everything to play for as Murdoch gets rattled

FLATTERING though it is to be called a "paranoid hack" by Rupert Murdoch, splendid though it was to witness his impression of Viz comic's Spoilt Bastard during a press conference last week, the battle to stop the man the Observer reckons is the second most powerful in the land buying Manchester United is by no means over. As Andy Gray himself would put it: there's still everything to play for.

One of those lobbying Parliament about the United takeover last week pointed out that the upwards of £225 mil-

lion Murdoch is willing to pay for a controlling stake at Old Trafford could transform football in this country. If he was remotely interested in investing in the game — as has been claimed by his myriad apologists, led by the asinine Kelvin McKenzie — he could use this money to buy every single amateur team a new clubhouse, every Nationwide League outfit a new training ground and still have enough money left over to pay off Chester's overdraft.

But, of course, Murdoch is not interested in football. As might be ascertained from his tetchy reaction to the news of his bid being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, he is interested in money and power and will stamp his feet if he is refused access to more of either.

If the rumours washing through media circles about Sky's falling number of subscribers are true (17 per cent down on last year and counting), Murdoch will be more anxious than ever to secure United. With the club on board, he will be in a significantly better position to influence future negotiations on the Premiership's television contract, his most important subscription-selling asset. Without it, it will be all the harder to keep rival media organisations away from his

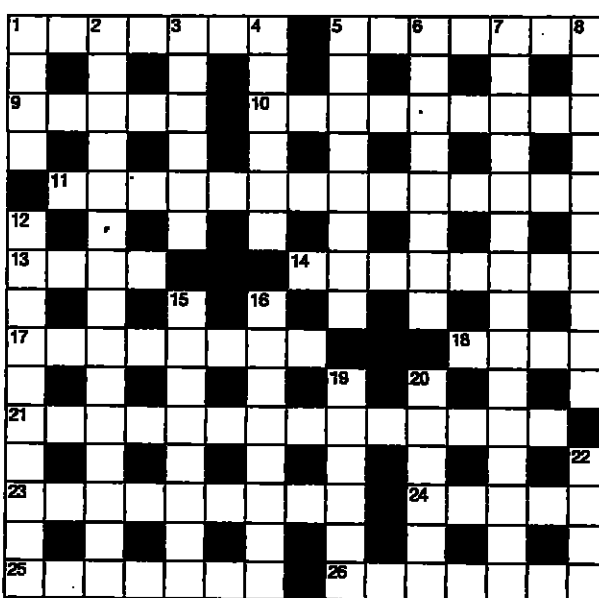
prize. There is no doubt about it, he needs United, and will fight tooth and nail to get it.

Which is why those opposed to him should not think the battle is won; this is just half-time. When Murdoch lashed out at those who he felt had got in his way, he blamed an over-cautious government and journalists working for rivals. He failed to give credit where it was due. This is a fans' campaign. Without the Independent Manchester United Supporters Association's efforts, there is no way anyone would have realised there was a problem with a Sky takeover; without Michael Crick's Shareholders United Against Murdoch organisation contacting every single MU plc shareholder there would have been considerably more than the desultory take-up of Sky's offer.

According to Andy Walsh, chair of the IMUSA, it has been surprisingly easy to persuade fans of other clubs to put aside their natural anti-United prejudice and see that this is an issue affecting every supporter of every club. Now the campaign moves into its second phase, Walsh is keen that anyone opposed to the deal who simply thought nothing could be done, should send their submissions to the MMC as soon as possible: this is a battle that can be won.

Guardian Crossword No 21,422

Set by Bunthorne



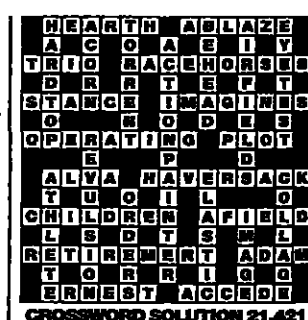
Across

- 1 To unknown outsiders, doctor lost count of literary endeavours (7)
- 5 Sows a crop here (7)
- 9 Clown of Venice binds books with sticky stuff (5)
- 10 With fat, it could be all or nothing; but... (4-5)
- 11 ...with thin, a real girl could be weightless (7-4-3)
- 13 Left order? That depends! (4)
- 14 Whatever's happening? (8)
- 17 Kidnapped later, was she? (8)
- 18 The un-named rising from the dead (2,2)
- 21 Room for inspiration here (9-5)
- 23 Mischief-maker's dubious rationale (9)
- 24 Inter-planetary key-worker taking his vacation on time (5)

- 25 Drawn from wells in Derbyshire (7)
- 26 Thus sighted Macavity (3-4)

Down

- 1 French quilt rating a Roman cover (4)
- 2 Working boy-off, that is, blither spirit (3-3-2-3-4)
- 3 Work hard in attempt to gain favour (5)
- 4 White Rose faction having a ball? (5)
- 5 Wherein party hacks, we hear, parrot with parasites (8)
- 6 Greek girl and boy getting on slowly (8)
- 7 One enters monastic order with friend, oddly enough (15)
- 8 Doctor on mountain-bike that T E Lawrence rode (5-5)
- 12 The dark side of the National Curriculum? (10)
- 15 Two ways a French French art quers one's pitch (8)
- 16 Not inclined to play Footsie? (8)
- 19 Ploughman in charge of mushroom-growing (5)
- 20 Outcome of a shuttle-launch (5)
- 22 Don Juan getting collared? (4)



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Two years ago Apple was down and Steve Jobs was out of the company he founded. Now he's back at the helm, the iMac is racing out of the shops and the company's fortunes are transformed. **Victor Keegan** reports

Many analysts still believe that Apple could have captured the speed now occupied by Microsoft — and 80 per cent world market share — had not hubris set in. Among the main causes of its downfall was that Apple refused to license its operating system to rival computer manufacturers, leaving Microsoft to sweep all before it. Apple fell from grace and Jobs was kicked out of the company he had created in 1975.

Normally, flagging computer companies just keep falling. "I've seldom come back to life."

Yet Jobs may have confounded that rule. After barely 10 months back with the company, he has just relaunched Apple into the consumer market in a big way with the iMac. Slickly designed in translucent blue tones, and much easier to operate, it makes most other computers — almost statistically beige in colour — look like something from a science museum. It is the nearest thing to Jobs's vision of "the computer for the rest of us." Results so far? It sold 278,000 units in the first six weeks, making it vital. Fortune magazine describes as "one of the hottest computer hardware wars."

legendary rudeness to employees that is scarily at odds with the company's egalitarian ethos. If there's a corporate philosophy, it is that no one gets a good idea wearing a shirt and tie. Yet the moody Jobs seems arrogantly to ask employees: "What do you do here that's good for the company?" He became difficult to work with and now has impossible to work without.

But that's not worrying anyone at the moment, least of all the boyskying Apple employees who, along with the rest of the audience who were intoxicated by his every word at the recent presentation at Cupertino, California.

They cheered the improving quarterly profits after losses of more than

Apples share price doubled in less than a year and only one person missed out — Steve Jobs. He sold all



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Applicants must have relevant office experience, accurate typing/word-processing skills and be able to communicate effectively in writing, in person and by telephone. The post involves the processing of documentation, entering and retrieving data on computer systems and other general clerical duties. The postholder must be prepared to be flexible.

An application form and job description may be obtained from the Personnel Office, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG (tel no: 0171 323 6189 between 10.00am and 12.00pm). Fax no: 0171-639 2778. E-Mail: personnel@soas.ac.uk. No CVs or agencies.

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Planning Department

Applications are invited for a new post of Planning Officer. The post will be concerned with the development of policy papers on a wide range of planning matters and the preparation of management information, including student numbers and financial projections. You will also assist with a number of external returns. Previous experience of University administration and familiarity with the use of spreadsheets and databases are essential, together with good organizational and communication skills.

Salary in the range £16,275 - £23,651 per annum on the Administrative staff salary scale.

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Dr John Taylor, Director of Planning, telephone: (01703) 592128 or email: John.Taylor@sothson.ac.uk

An application form and further particulars may be obtained

from the Personnel Department (B), University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, telephone: (01703) 592750, email: recruit@soc.soton.ac.uk or [mrlm1.com: \(01703\) 595595](mailto:mrlm1.com: (01703) 595595). To be returned no later than 25 November 1998. Please quote reference number B/195.

MARKETING

We wish to recruit staff of high potential to help us develop the marketing group into an internationally recognized centre of excellence. Two new marketing posts have been created, reflecting the Business School's commitment to the subject area. These posts are permanent and we seek individuals who will further enhance the research and teaching expertise of the group.

Candidates may have teaching, and research interests in any area of marketing, although individuals with expertise in strategic, business to business, international, retail, marketing research and IT, would be particularly welcome.

Supersolubility in Mathematics

The College intends to appoint a Stipendiary Lecturer in Mathematics from January 1989 until July 2000. The appointment is not renewable. The College will pay an annual stipend of £10,450. The Lecturer will be required to provide eight hours teaching per week. Applications consisting of a curriculum vitae and three references should be sent to the Secretary of the College.

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[illegible]

1			
2			

1	Hiding coat with vents, slanted pockets (7, 6)			
8	Curve (3)	8		
9	Former Royal Yacht (9)			
10	Soaked (8)			

22			
----	--	--	--

[illegible]

1 Store (5)	apprentice (7)
2 Dog with long ears (6,7)	12 Precious metal
	13 University —

3	Simpleton (b)	studying (7)
4	Instructed — steered (b)	15 East European refinement (b)

5	Partly open (4)	18	Est (5)
6	Person with similar interests	19	It tastes sweet
7			schoolboys did

(7,6) | like it! (4)

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Education

An unprecedented Internet link-up between schools in Beijing and London, inspired by the Disney film *Mulan*, is sparking a rich cultural exchange. **Jack Schofield** reports

One eye on the orient

What do you eat for lunch? Do you like Michael Owen? How long is your school day? Do you go to school on a bus? Exhibit two: What's your favourite food? Do you like martial arts? Have you heard of Qi Gong?

It's a meeting of two cultures, and there's no challenge to spotting which is which. On one side, eight 11-year-old girls are gathered round a computer screen at the Royal School, a small independent school in Hampstead, north London. On the other side of the world is a mixed group of 11-year-olds from the Beijing University Suburb Middle School.

One of the leading schools in Beijing, China. And they are exchanging their views in sound and video, live, across the Internet. It would be stretching it to call this videoconferencing.

Because the two schools are using standard PCs with dial-up modems, the sound is okay but the video image is only a couple of inches square, and it gets updated less than once a second. However, the equipment is cheap, and the Internet call is charged at local telephone rates.

Last week's call was not, of course, the first contact between the two schools. They'd already exchanged drawings of dragons and their own illustrated brochures about ancient China. Some of the best have already been posted on the Internet. In the Get Connected section of the Mulan website at <http://www.mulan.co.uk>.

In fact, Mulan — a new Walt Disney film based on a popular Chinese folk story about a young girl who disguises herself as a man and becomes a warrior in her father's stead — provided the basis for this international exchange.

Fired up pupils at the Royal School, Hampstead, have exchanged drawings with their Chinese counterparts.

It's a Creative Commons WebPhone software, a WebPhone camera and a WebPhone microphone, used a PC running Windows 95.

With a Creative Commons WebPhone software, a WebPhone camera and a WebPhone microphone, used a PC running Windows 95.

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Welcoming students to the world of work can make the most hardened reporter break into a cold sweat. But basking in a protégé's success is rewarding, says **Marin Wainwright**

Briefcase Encounter

How to win at work experience

- **Min-tow** — Initially you will probably learn more from a small company.
- **Try to get a longer, two-week placement** so you can plan the start and get to know the staff.
- **Contact the employer by letter or in person** beforehand to outline your expectations.
- **Phone a week in advance** to check you are expected.
- **Don't anticipate too much**, you will probably have some mundane jobs.
- **Be punctual and dress appropriately.**
- **Remember the staff have a job** so can't constantly supervise you.
- **Use your initiative during quiet periods.**
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions.**
- **Think positively and enjoy the experience.**

Yvette Easen

grades, tell me about their first, real-life job. I have just been basking in a whole raft of Oxbridge successes, mostly from Leeds comprehensive, who won places on a joint scheme run by myself, Sophie Raworth (then of BBC Look North, now deservedly a Breakfast TV star) and the Yorkshire Post two years ago.

There are plays, soap operas, popular novels to be woven out of work experience. I have giggled as 15-year-olds (a lot of schools) find the faint in leavers' fearlessly ask John Gummer the "stupid" — and therefore fundamental — press conference question: "I have been impressed how many busy people will agree to be interviewed not just by me, but a handful of teenagers. Five is the record, and the Keeper of the Royal Annals, Guy Wilson, copied with the bombardment very well."

There have been some apparent duds, though probably mostly because of shyness — a tip for experience-offers is to take the kids in batches, so that they can matter to one another rather than have to

the permanent under-secretary, makes long-term decisions about the future of the British army, its bases, equipment and personnel.

Present incumbent: General Sir Roger Wheeler, 57. **When will he go?** Probably in 2000; he took over last year and it's usually a two and a half year posting.

Any chance of a woman replacement? Absolutely not. The Chief of the General Staff is appointed from the Army Board, which has six soldiers among its 11 members — not one is a woman.

Jobs for the girls

What are the odds on the first woman Chief of the General Staff?

Salary: £120,000.

Job description: Head of the army in Britain, responsible for the 120,000 army personnel; sits on the Chiefs of Staff Committee which makes key decisions about British defence issues; advises the Secretary of State for Defence and

Things are changing, surely? So they're always telling us, but it's going to take a while to make a difference to the top brass. Until 1991, women in the army belonged to the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) and a career in that couldn't give them the experience necessary to be Chief of the General Staff. But the WRAC is now disbanded; so women — who make up around 10 per cent of army staff — compete with men on equal terms in 70 per cent of army posts. "It's going to take women around 20, maybe 30 years to work through

the new system," says one insider. "But there are some very bright young women officers around, so it could only be a question of time."

So a woman will get there eventually? Well, in theory, yes. The first brigadier to be appointed to the WRAC was disbanded, Tricia Purves, takes up her posting early next year. But whatever other battles women might have helped the British army win, the battle of the sexes still rages on — women have only just got the right to wear trousers on parade, for example, and only eight years ago they were

still being sacked for having babies. "The army is always about 20 years behind the rest of society in its views — and that includes its views on women," one officer says.

"The sort of changes we are making now are the ones that happened elsewhere in the seventies." Another says: "A woman CGS is too far away for most of us to contemplate. We're going to get a woman general and that could still take 10 years."

Joanna Moorhead

Slip sliding away

Victoria coren on the imminent loss of three EastEnders

Every soap on television has its individual stars, but only one character is fundamental to all.

He never gets a screen credit but his shadowy presence creeps around Albert Square, pops in and out of the Rovers Return and picks his own from Emmerdale farm.

Yes, it's the Grim Reaper — and this winter he's got more work than ever in the inevitable role as Drama Serial Killer. He'll be slipping down those seamy chimneys like Father Antichristmas. He's particularly keen on the women of EastEnders: women have always been the great strength of that show, so they're the obvious target if you want a big ratings funeral. Lovely Tiffany Mitchell will meet her fate in a road accident, a train crash awaits Ruth Fowler, and Cindy Beale is toast.

But Beale is toast when she gives birth in prison. This is a rather unbelievable death toll for a "realistic" series like EastEnders. The camp American soaps of the eighties could handle indiscriminate slaughter because they never set out to be convincing. If you could suspend your disbelief while 20 long-lost children turned up on Dynasty, you'd hardly be surprised when they were killed in a Mordorian revolution.

EastEnders is different. At its best, it is genuinely high quality domestic drama. Last week's two-hourer between Pat Evans (the magnificent Pam St Clement) and Peggy Mitchell (the one and only Barbara Windsor) was a faultless half-hour of television. Windsor struck the perfect note of ironic

self-consciousness as she delivered Peggy's line: "I never seem to have any trouble getting a man — they just all turn out to be a waste of space." Pam St Clement's towering soliloquies ("I'm the Black Widow, ain't you, dear?") were as good as anything you'd see at the National — better, if the reviews of Cleopatra are anything to go by.

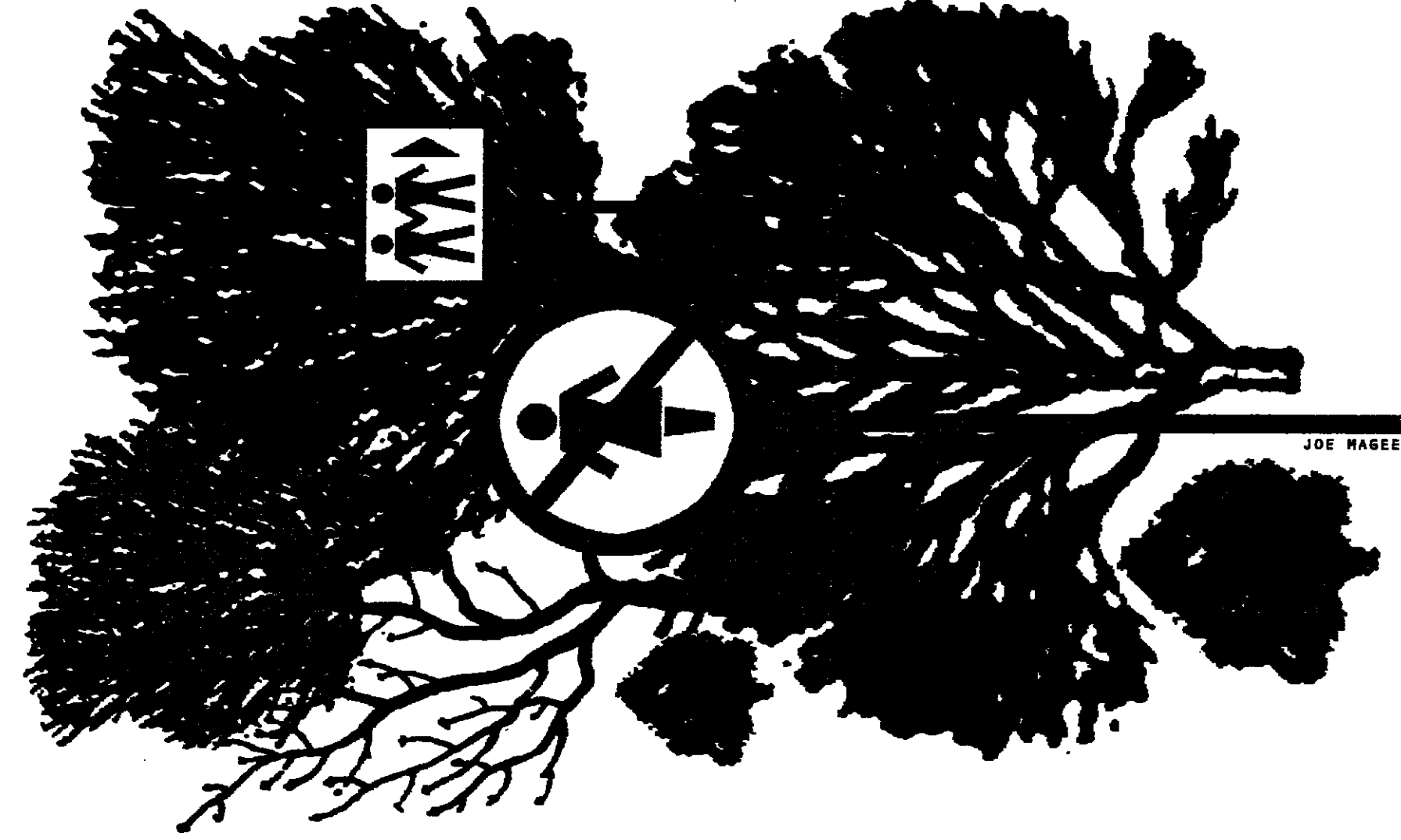
There was nothing unbelievable in their exchange. Peggy (as Frank Butcher's fiancée) and Pat (as Roy's wife and Frank's ex) swapped jealousies, hatreds and mutual sympathies in a beautifully measured script, with the implicit suggestion that the men under discussion were simply not worth this emotional complexity. If they can make TV this good, with a theme this familiar, then why on earth do they stoop to hit men, train crashes and baby kidnaps?

It must be a strain on the actors. Cindy Beale began as a convincing mix of light and dark. But how is Michelle Collins expected to play a woman who cheats on her husband with two brothers, then has him shot, kidnaps her children, flees abroad and goes to prison? Cindy became a pantomime villain — a Bad Woman who will be punished by death in childbirth.

Similarly, Zoe in Coronation Street was punished for not loving her child enough; the baby died. Brookside was the most mind-boggling: her father because he raped her; she was then killed by a heart attack in prison. What is the moral there? Soap chicks should beware.

EastEnders is celebrated for its strong women; it should have enough faith in its characters and cast to allow them believable lives and proportionate deaths. Too much melodrama will break our trust. Look at the fate of Anne Malone in Coronation Street. Another Bad Woman, Malone was punished by freezing to death in a lecherous, the stuff of fairy-tale. They ask us to accept an out-and-out villain, then a nice, neat come-uppance. But life isn't so simple. If it were, General Pinochet wouldn't have his plane ticket home.

Departing is such a sweet sorrow... EastEnders' Cindy and Tiffany



JOE MAGEE

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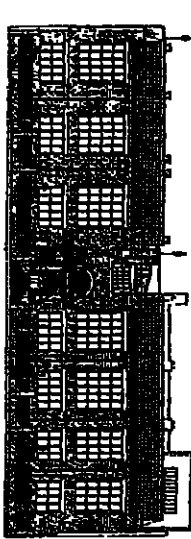
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The Open College of the Arts, set up in 1987 by Lord Young of Dartington, offers home-based learning in a wide range of subjects, including the visual arts, graphic design, creative writing and music. OCA has created over thirty courses and has attracted nearly 40,000 students. It is motivated by a belief in the liberating capacity of the arts for everyone. But as an independent charitable trust, from headquarters in Wokingham, OCA cannot rely on a network of local centres and course sites who are motivated by the prospect of income. The college is currently seeking a Director to lead the college in its new role as a national provider of the arts. The Director will be responsible for the college's financial, administrative and educational functions. The Director will be responsible for the college's financial, administrative and educational functions. The Director will be responsible for the college's financial, administrative and educational functions.

Closing date: Friday 27 November 1998.



GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

DIRECTOR

Salary c. £170K

The Glasgow School of Art wishes to appoint a Director to succeed Professor David Gifford, who retired in October 1997. Reporting to the Board of Governors, the Director is responsible for the conduct and operation of the School including teaching, research and administration.

Established in 1845, Glasgow School of Art is an independent art school which is comprised of a School of Fine Art, School of Design and Craft and the Macdonald School of Architecture offering a full range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees awarded by the University of Glasgow. The School enjoys an international reputation for excellence.

At the House for an Art Lover, the School has established the David Gifford Foundation to support postgraduate and research programmes or undertake an advanced PhD/3D action project and visual research. This initiative has the strong support of international donors.

REMIT

The new Director will provide leadership and vision at a time of important structural change in Scotland. He will be responsible for developing and promoting the School's initiatives within the United Kingdom and abroad, and will be capable of inspiring the confidence of staff, students and external agencies. The Director is also the School's 'flagship officer' and is responsible for the School's financial health.

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Applications and job descriptions may be obtained from: James Duffell, Treasurer, Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6HQ. Telephone 0141-333-4503. Closing date for submission of applications: 14 December 1998.

Completed applications should be marked 'Director' and sent to: The Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6HQ. The Glasgow School of Art is an equal opportunities employer.

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The Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) is the professional body representing over 22,000 Legal Executives and trainee Legal Executives working within the legal profession. As one of the largest providers of legal education, ILEX has a growing membership in the UK and overseas.

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This is a senior appointment within ILEX. For further information and a job description, please contact or send your CV to: Secretary General, The Institute of Legal Executives, Kempson Manor, Hampton, Bedford MK44 7AB. Tel: 01238 645070.

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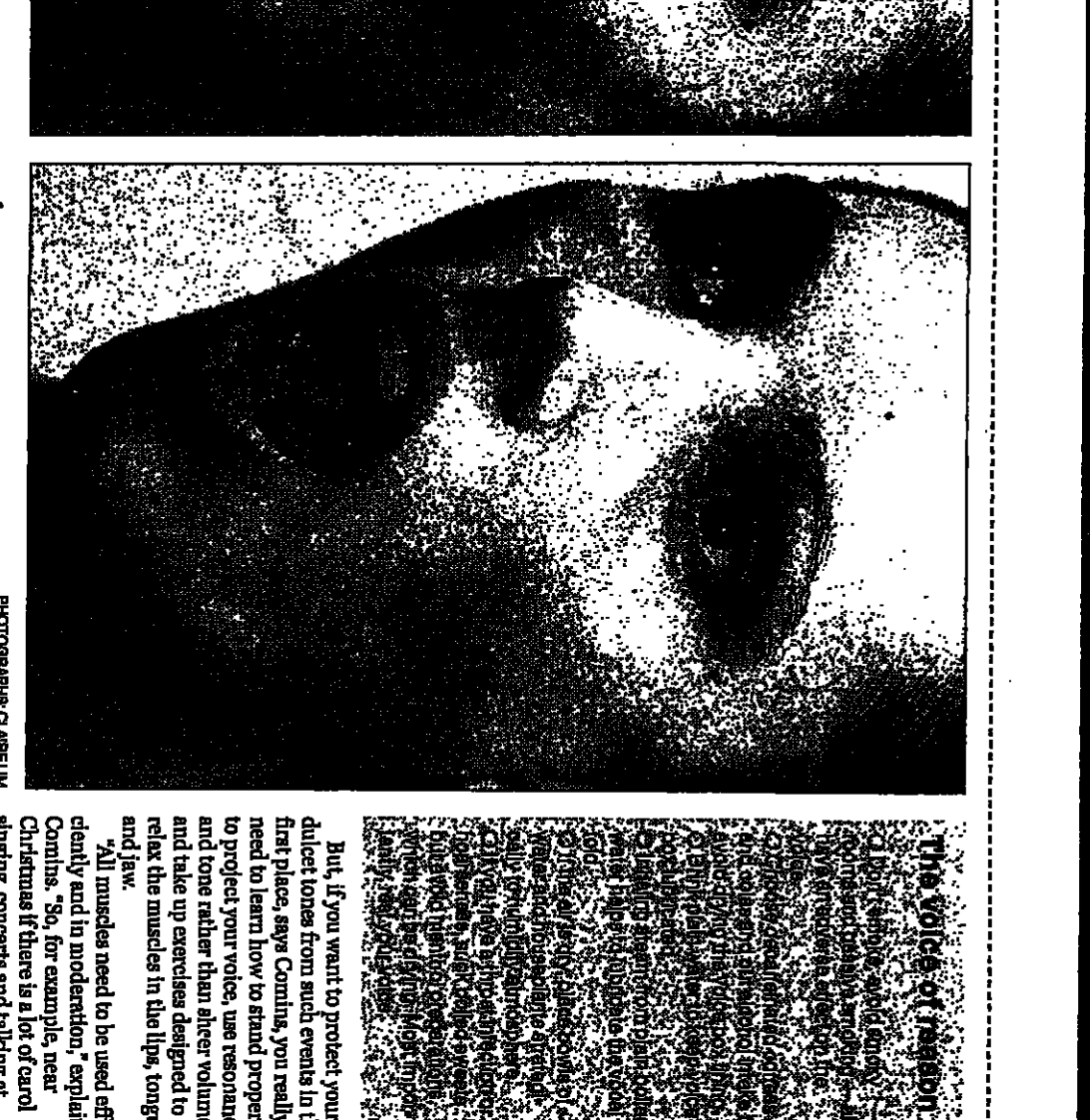
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PHOTOGRAPH BY CLARE LUM

The voice of reason

By Dr. Norman Mathew, a hypochondriac, who writes about his own condition. He describes how he has managed to live with his condition and how he has managed to live with his condition.

Diary of a hypochondriac

Monday. After so much recent torment, my general health has reached a plateau of stability. Admittedly, however, the butterflies and mild depression in the buttocks and midriff persist, but these chronic ailments I long ago learned to live with, while my bowels, although hardly in the best of humours, are less irritable than usual. No, all in all, things could be worse.

All things come to he who waits

Dr. Jarvis. Yes, Mr. Norman, she's expecting you in the usual old, Monday at 6.0pm.

Diary of a hypochondriac

Sunday. I'm a bit nervous, having passed a trouble-free night. In the dream, I saw on a mortuary slab being attended to by an embalmer. Rebecca stands by the body, casually smoking a Marlboro Light, and next to her is Dr. Jarvis. They are drinking champagne. "We said it was serious," says Rebecca. "Yes," says the doctor, "but if the bad, it forced the cotton bud through the eardrum and into the brain..." "Still," says my widow, "at least you'll be able to get home by car on Monday night." They giggle and clink champagne flutes together.

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Tuesday. Will this relentless conveyor belt of ill health ever cease? No sooner does one ailment vanish from view than another glides up to replace it. A fortnight ago, the left ear was troublesome as a result, according to my excellent physician Dr. Sarah Jarvis, of over-zealous cotton bud usage. That ear has recovered, but this evening, soon after supper, the right one begins to flare up.

Wednesday. So extreme is the pain that shortness of temper at work obliges me to apologise to a colleague. "You never apologise to me," says my wife, who I report the words in silence and in which I am shocked together in the eyes of God. I point out: "You know what you were merrily, you know, pushing only to flick the lobe and elicit a yelp of excruciation. Rebecca heads silently for the stairs."

Thursday. The ear now feels as though someone (Rebecca, presumably, who else had either the means or the motive) implanted a small, glowing piece of coal near the eardrum while I slept. Over the phone, my mother, who has long believed herself to be a doctor, diagnoses a mastoiditis. I reply this to my wife. "Don't be so silly," says Rebecca. "How many times must Sarah tell you not to poke the bud so far into the ear? But this time it's not the cotton bud. This time, it's serious."

Friday. I can deny the inevitable no longer and did the familiar seven digits. "Grove Health Centre," "Ah, yes, good morning. I'd like to make an appointment to see..."

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Health

Practice makes for perfect pitch and fewer sore throats and hoarse days. **Jenni Ameghino** discovers the secret of avoiding a husky voice

Silent blight

Husky voices have long been a turn-on. Ever since Madonna Dietrich growled "Back in love again" back in 1950 the guttural utterance has been sold as seductive. More recent celebrated singers include Rod Stewart, Bonnie Tyler and Marlene Frosdorp. Yet being aspirated isn't all it's cracked up to be — ask any teacher who's been hoarse for a week just how they feel.

Temporarily losing your voice is common enough, especially at this time of year when throats get a battering from colds and flu, dry heated atmospheres and festive excess. Teachers and lecturers, however, who have to use their voices for a living, are especially vulnerable to the vocal strain. While dropping the vocal pitch to be softer, hardening it to give authority or raising it to be heard can all cause damage.

Pre-menstrual hormone changes, emotional stress, smoking and drinking and infections such as

laryngitis and tonsillitis are also voice-stealers, while some asthma drugs and anti-histamines can alter voice quality.

"Because people can't actually see their voices, they often don't look after it," says speech and language therapist Susan Ingles of the Professional Voice Users' Clinic at University Hospital, Birmingham.

But learning to control the lower rib cage during breathing to empower the voice and correcting poor posture can bring great benefits, "We teach people how to yell well," says Ingles.

The first step, however, is to ensure you give your voice the right first aid if it's signalling distress, she says. This means taking rest and plenty of fluids, though it doesn't include lubricating the throat with six pints of Hitler. Alcohol, along with tobacco, caffeine and spicy food, dries out the mucosal membranes, making them vulnerable to damage.

Next are the housekeeping tasks: changes, emotional stress, smoking and drinking and infections such as



Hum, growl and yell... Lynsey Pow, a singing teacher, practices techniques designed to warm up the vocal cords



Heather Spiller, who found the night here to leave his job at head of Westbury, "When I returned to work, my voice was weak and tired. I certainly couldn't take assembly or command attention as a head teacher."

His therapy involved learning exercises designed to improve his vocal muscles (see above). "I went on holiday in the middle of it and I remember walking along the beach practising all these weird noises. I didn't know if it was doing any good but then in April last year my voice started coming back."

Loss of self-esteem is common among voice therapy patients, according to Roz Conlins, co-ordinator of Warwickshire-based Voice Carr Network UK, a charity that trains teachers and other vocal professionals. "If you lose your voice it diminishes you as a person; you end up a smiling non-entity," she says.

"People can be ostracised, mocked and avoided or, conversely, receive unnecessary attention. Unfortunately, it can be a self-perpetuating

Why tailoring could be the next Big Thing

The genetic revolution does not have to mean cloning or creating the 'perfect' person. **Jerome Burne** says we can use it to help prevent serious diseases

Ure are two typical headlines about recent medical breakthroughs: "Cuppa tea cancer risk" and "Boy gets own bladder". Which one do you think is the best pointer to the medicine of the next century?

The first story is about a study that shows that the antioxidants in tea may reduce the risk of breast cancer. The second story is about how surgeons took cells from a damaged bladder, grew them in the laboratory and then grafted on a new bladder grown from the patient's own tissue.

Undoubtedly the most glamorous is the second. For several years now genetic engineering has been promising to transform medicine. We will soon be able to clone body parts, harvest human antibodies from transgenic pigs, alter our genes to cure disease and so on. It is dazzling stuff, but according to a fascinating new book, its very brilliance has blinded us to the true potential of this genetic revolution.

"People are worried about the

complementary medicine into something precise and effective. To understand how this could work, let's go back to that news report on tea. How do we know that tea helps against cancer? Presumably researchers ran a trial with two matched groups: one lot gets tea for months/years, another doesn't — which one has the lower incidence of cancer? There are similar recent findings linking vitamin E with a protective effect against heart disease, say with a reduction of menopausal problems and so on.

The trouble is these findings are all terribly crude. Do some people benefit more than others, and if so who? Does age make a difference, does gender, or ethnic group? We don't know. Now suppose that you bring all the new and incredible detailed knowledge about both plant and human genes and apply it to findings like this. "We could transform medicine," says Rifkin. "In a few

years you will be able to get a print-out of your genetic structure and know the kind of diseases and disabilities you are susceptible to. Combine that information with the genetic knowledge we have about which proteins, chemicals and hormones affect your genetic weak spots and you've got something really powerful. We could begin to see exactly who would benefit from vitamin E and so on."

This doesn't have to be limited to a nutritional approach either. Recent research has shown a link between different forms of exercise and the triggering of different genes. So hypothetically, because the precise work hasn't been done yet, people at risk for heart disease might benefit most from swimming, potential diabetics from running.

Similarly, once you know people's genetic make-up, you can start to see what things in the environment — pollutants, foods, chemicals — are likely to trigger off their specific problems and

Arts

The missing face of Trainspotting

Kevin McKidd, the one who didn't turn up for the photo shoot, talks to **Brian Logan**



McKidd in the Almeida production of Britannicus, at the Albery

Wouldn't it be nice if you pulled out of yourselves and into extraordinary situations. It's the same with Britannicus: if he wasn't forced into this difficult situation because of what happens in the play, he'd just be a regular guy.

His attachment to regular guys must stem from his own scrupulously regular credentials. McKidd is the son of a plumber and a secretary in a local lemonade firm in Elgin in the north of Scotland. I ask him if he's the town's most famous son and he's embarrassed to admit that he might be. The Highlands, we conclude, are under-represented in the snail uplands of celebrity.

Poached from an Edinburgh drama school by John McGrath, who, for his stage production of *The Silver Darlings*, "wanted someone young, with blond hair and from the north of Scotland" and who describes working with McKidd as "bloody wonderful, fantastic", the young actor was almost instantly offered his first movie role, in Gillies MacKinnon's *Small Faces*. Until then he'd had "no interest in film at all. I'd always wanted to do theatre. I thought that I'd do the rep around Scotland for three or four years and maybe move on after that, but this film thing just happened. I couldn't believe it."

It got weirder. Danny Boyle, impressed with his *Elastoplast*-wrapped thug Malky Johnston in *Small Faces*, cast McKidd as neeky teen himself in *Trainspotting*. "It was strange, but then I'm more Tommy McKidd's — have gone on to make movies in America, where the fifth poster star, even Bremner, was last heard of giving workshops on the British Method to American actors. You'll have noticed Kevin McKidd, too, but his rise hasn't been meteoric. Of course, he was *Trainspotting*'s unflashy role, the only one that deflected attention. Tommy McKidd as "perfect for symbols of golden national renewal".

For all his by-then evident ability, however, after *Trainspotting* it was down to *Goven* office to sign on. "I didn't work for almost a year after *Trainspotting*. Being a paranoiac actor, I thought everyone loved the film but hated my performance. It was only years afterwards, when I spoke to Johnny Lee Miller and Ewen Bremner and found out the same thing had happened to them, that I began to think it was because people thought, after *Trainspotting*, that we'd already been flooded with offers."

Paranoiac actor? He may be, but — as his use of the phrase demonstrates — he's a thoughtful one, too. He grasps what it means to perform, describing his return to theatre not only in terms of refining his craft —

his co-stars include Diana Rigg and Julian Glover — but of reminding himself that acting is storytelling. "It's easy to forget when you're making films in these short, sharp bursts that that's what it's about. In the theatre, you get a much more immediate sense of leading the audience through a story. Perhaps it's because he's conscious that 'some people have a job' and he doesn't but McKidd needs self-improvement and self-justification.

We agonise that, making films in Britain, "there's not enough money to fund more than three days rehearsal so you have to come up with a character much quicker than you'd like to." He claims not to covet stardom: "I don't think about it. I don't have this acceptance speech written or anything." Of the parties and networking that constitute the celebrity life, he's not saying they're bad, but they're not for me.

While encouraged by my suggestion that the coming year should see his profile rise, he's unsure whether leading man status, first conferred on him by Rose Troche's *Immanent* in *Bedrooms And Hallways*, becomes still can't believe it when I go to a

screening and see myself up there. I'm just this kid from Elgin. Asked if his success has been down to good luck or judgment, McKidd's answer is precisely what you'd expect from the industry: "I work hard. I take it very seriously. I wouldn't let myself off without working very hard at it. But I guess I'm a jenny bastard, too."

It's probably Elgin that reminds him of all those "shit jobs": his roots recently and my mum made me go and speak to the local youth theatre, and they just thought I was another adult, you know. I asked them at the end, Any questions? And nobody said a word."

Withering scepticism? Set-of-the-earth indifference? Clearly, a small-town Scottish upbringing case a long shadow which McKidd doesn't seem too keen to step out of.

Of life in the very flat lane, he insists: "I don't think that'll happen, I really don't. But if it does, I'll still be an Elgin boy. His Highland accent — thickens, and McKidd reiterates — naively? hopefully? — "I'll still be on Elgin loonie."

Britannicus opens at the Albery Theatre, London WC2, on Tuesday (0171-388 1740).

سكينا من الامير

10/10/01

School of Business

Appointments and Arrival

With his three cars, large salary and big house Abbas al-Janabi lived a privileged life in Iraq. But he worked for the sadistic Uday Hussein, Saddam's son, for 15 years. Now he has defected to the west. Here, for the first time, he talks about the cruel regime to Ian Black

Life with the brute of Baghdad

Abbas al-Janabi is a big man with a heavy snout and he looks hungry on a Monday morning. He is a journalist and he has been working for 15 years before Uday Hussein, son of Saddam, for whom he worked for 15 years before fleeing Iraq for his life and freedom in the West.

Janabi, a heavily-built, 60-year-old man with a thick mustache, is being interviewed by a reporter who is sitting on a sofa in a room that looks like a hotel. He is a journalist and he has been working for 15 years before Uday Hussein, son of Saddam, for whom he worked for 15 years before fleeing Iraq for his life and freedom in the West.

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Uday's thugs... Iraqi exiles say Janabi has been corrupted and compromised. PHOTOGRAPH BY GARY WEAVER

Janabi acknowledges that his long years of loyalty to such a man require some explanation. Iraqis who left long before he did remember him as "Uday's thing" in the state media. And he admits that he lived well, paid perches 100 times the average salary, owning three cars and a substantial house in a wealthy suburb of the capital. But always there was the threat of punishment.

In 1991, after writing what he thought was an innocuous item about the army in one of the government newspapers he then edited, Janabi was locked up and taught a terrible lesson. Uday sent one of his bodyguards to the prison and he used a pistol to pull out one of my front teeth. Then he took it to Uday wrapped in a Kleenex to show that he had done the job.

On another occasion Janabi saw Uday torture a man who had looked after his business interests in Jordan, beating him with a baseball bat on the soles of his feet, then suspending him from a revolving ceiling fan and flogging him with a cable.

But his most dramatic personal testimony is about the killing of Hussein Kamel al-Majid and his brother Saddam Kamel, Saddam's sons-in-law (and the fathers of his own grandchildren) who defected to Jordan in 1995 to reveal the secrets of the Iraqi weapons programme. They then made the fatal mistake of believing an offer of clemency and came home to make amends. Janabi was with Uday when troops and intelligence agents sealed off Kamel's house in a suburb of Baghdad. "It was like a battlefield. The army surrounded the area and they used machine guns, mortars and grenades. After successive attacks they managed to kill him and then they threw his body on to a rubbish heap."

By February this year, Janabi had had enough. After 11 years in prison, including one in Uday's office at the wider horizons. Strikingly — at a time of renewed confrontation over the UN weapons inspections — he believes that despite having failed to overthrow Saddam at the end of the Gulf War in 1991, western countries could now do more to oust him. At the very least, he says, they should help the internal opposition, not those bickering elite groups whose ranks he now seems destined to join.

And he paints a devastating picture of the ineffectiveness of UN sanctions which have impoverished and starved millions of innocent people and nourished a generation of children nourished a generation of children who are now being recruited and corrupt while leaving rampant and corrupt elite unchecked. "The regime can import anything it wants — luxury goods and cars — but the people are suffering," Janabi says. "The regime distributes food and medicine to people who are loyal and even if they do not some of it goes to the wealthy for propaganda reasons."

Despite years of complaints about the ineffectiveness of the UN system — including those by some senior UN personnel — Janabi says that official abuse of aid is common.

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Uday in hospital after the 1996 assassination attempt which left him partially crippled. It also made him even more sadistic, Janabi says

"I am ready to cooperate with anyone who is working against Saddam," he says. "I believe in the Arabic proverb: 'My enemy's enemy is my friend.'"

Experts say Janabi's information about the dark inner world of the Saddam Kamel, Saddam's sons-in-law (and the fathers of his own grandchildren) who defected to Jordan in 1995 to reveal the secrets of the Iraqi weapons programme. They then made the fatal mistake of believing an offer of clemency and came home to make amends. Janabi was with Uday when troops and intelligence agents sealed off Kamel's house in a suburb of Baghdad. "It was like a battlefield. The army surrounded the area and they used machine guns, mortars and grenades. After successive attacks they managed to kill him and then they threw his body on to a rubbish heap."

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Top poets Society

They do things differently in the USA as Peter Forbes finds out when he considers a fresh approach to the laureateship

There is a groundswell of opinion — not least among poets themselves — that the time has come to change the format of the Poetry Laureateship. If Scotland and Wales can have a representative drastic changes, why not the laureateship, a post which began in the 17th century as a court position?

Debate over the laureateship is nothing new. In 1913, expressing its satisfaction at the selection of Robert Bridges, the Times reported: "For some reason, the general public appeared to have taken an unexpected interest in the question who was to succeed Mr Alfred Austin. Sir Herbert Beerbaum Tree, makes the half-jocular suggestion that the office should be abolished, but —"

to benefit the family and to point out the beauties of his work to an otherwise indifferent posterity."

No doubt some today would side with Beerbaum Tree, but the general view among poets is that the laureateship is an important ambassador and the post should not be allowed to wither. Ted Hughes is a hard act to follow. And he is a hard act to follow.

There have also been suggestions that found him at a bar to him at the South Bank on Sunday was the American system of poet laureates.

In the US, the mantle of national poet has been worn by the holder of the poetry chair at the Library of Congress, a post created in 1936. The official title of "poet laureate consultant in poetry" was created by Ronald Reagan in 1986. The laureate is appointed by the Librarian of Congress and serves one or two terms, from October to May. He or she has an office in the Library of Congress and a salary of \$35,000 which comes from an endowed fund, not from the taxpayer.

The official duties are fairly limited. They include planning the library's literary season and giving speeches at the beginning and the end of it. The present laureate, Robert Pinsky, is a 48-year-old poet who grew up in New Jersey. Like the president, he plays the saxophone and edits an internet poetry magazine. Last spring he launched a favourite poem project, calling on enthusiasts from around the country to send in (by mail or e-mail) their most beloved lines.

Poets here agree that the UK could adopt the American system, highlighting the term of office to six years and the freedom to choose a poet on the streets of Westminster. "I think that's right for the people," says Pinsky. "I think it's right for the people."

There are the caveats. When, then, would the poet be chosen? And how? The poet would be chosen by a panel of poets, and perhaps the poet would be chosen by a panel of poets.

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Wendy Cope, why and funny

about occasions — she works very well to commission. She is something of a female Benjamin, why, funny and very much a public poet.

The multi-cultural dimension is now very much centre stage, and some of our best-known poets are poets are around laureate age. James Berry is the older laureate age. James Berry is the older laureate age. James Berry is the older laureate age.

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